

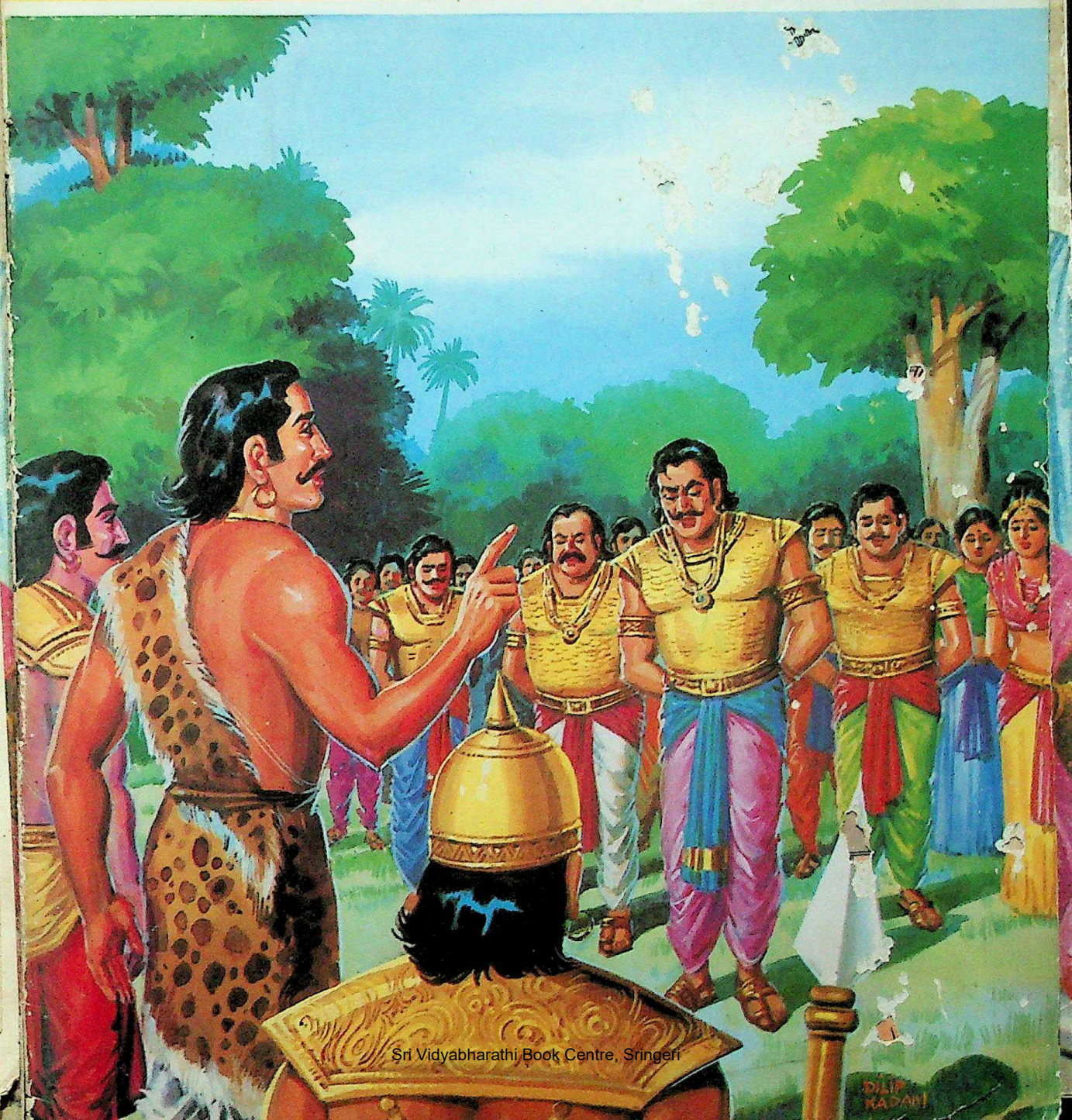


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Mahabharata - 23

DURYODHANA HUMBLLED



Sri Vidyabharathi Book Centre, Sringeri

DILIP KADAM

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Veda Vyasa's Epic on the Bharata race was first recited in public by his disciple Vaishampayana at the behest of the ageless seer Vyasa himself.

The recital took place in the august presence of King Janamejaya—great-grandson of Vyasa—and the many learned sages who had assembled for Janamejaya's Sarpa Satra (a 12-year-long snake sacrifice.)

The twenty-second session of our rendering of the Mahabharata narrated how the Pandavas while awaiting Arjuna's arrival from Indraloka, went around the earth on a pilgrimage. The brothers were finally reunited in the Dwaitavana where Arjuna displayed his celestial weapons.

*

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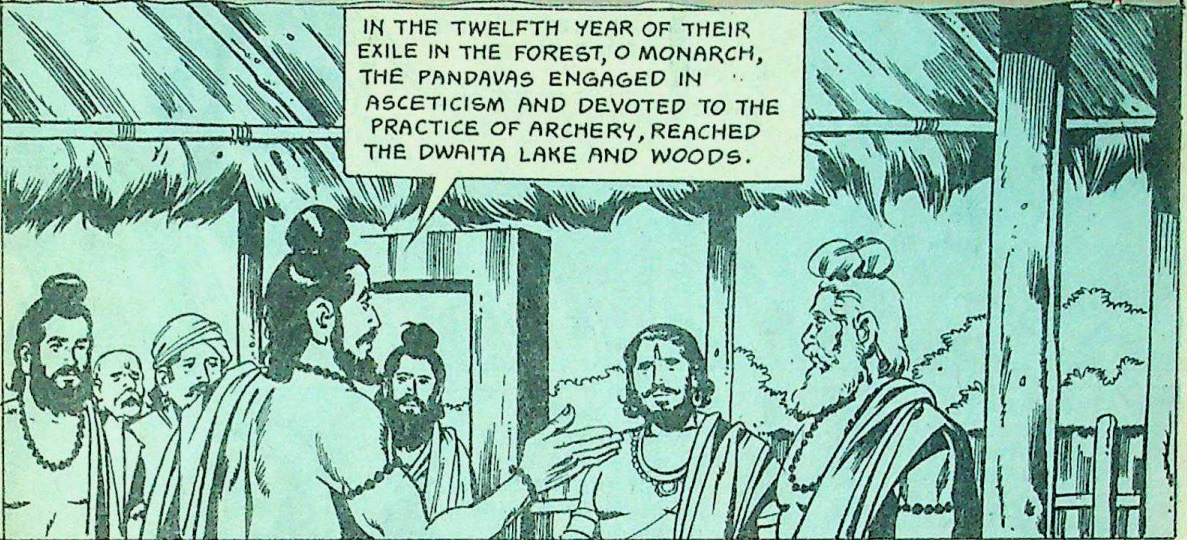
**Mahabharata—24
THE
TWELFTH YEAR**

Sri Vidyabharathi Book Centre, Sringeri

Mahabharata - 23

DURYODHANA HUMBLLED

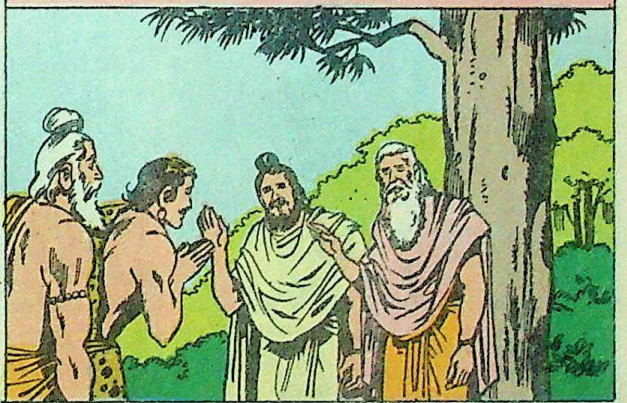
IN THE TWELFTH YEAR OF THEIR EXILE IN THE FOREST, O MONARCH, THE PANDAVAS ENGAGED IN ASCETICISM AND DEVOTED TO THE PRACTICE OF ARCHERY, REACHED THE DWAITA LAKE AND WOODS.



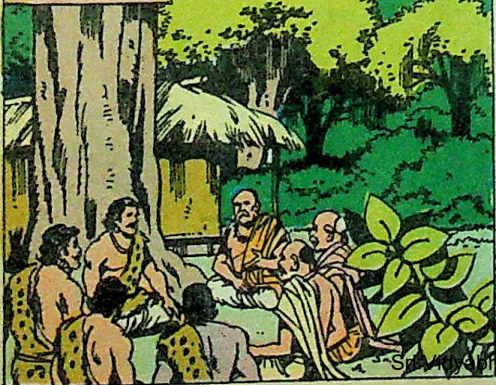
"THE PANDAVAS LIVED NEAR THE DWAITA LAKE, FAR AWAY FROM CIVILIZATION ...



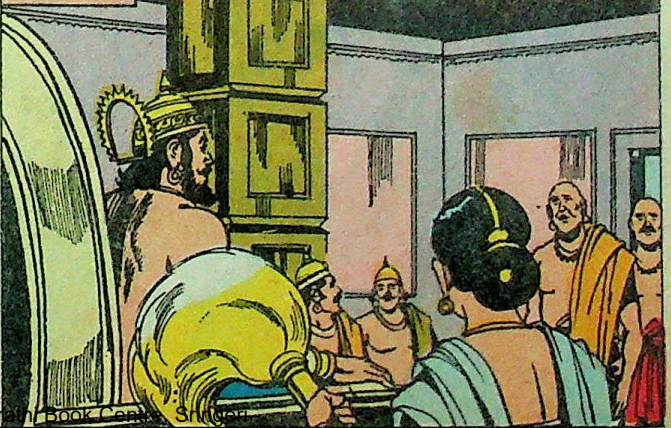
"...BUT MANY ASCETICS CAME TO VISIT THEM.



"ONE DAY THERE CAME TO THE DWAITA FOREST A CERTAIN BRAHMANA. HE CONVERSED WITH THE PANDAVAS FOR A WHILE ...



"...AND THEN VISITED THE COURT OF KING DHRTA-RASHTRA.

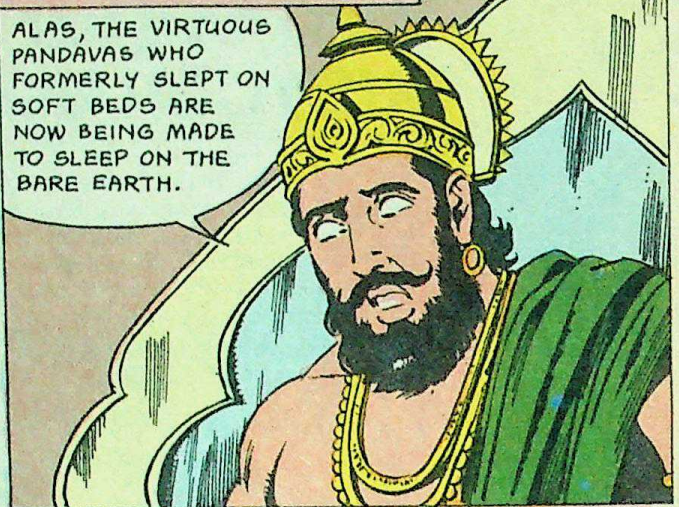


THE BRAHMANA EXPLAINED TO DHRITARASHTRA THE SORRY PLIGHT IN WHICH HE HAD FOUND THE PANDAVAS AND DRAUPADI.

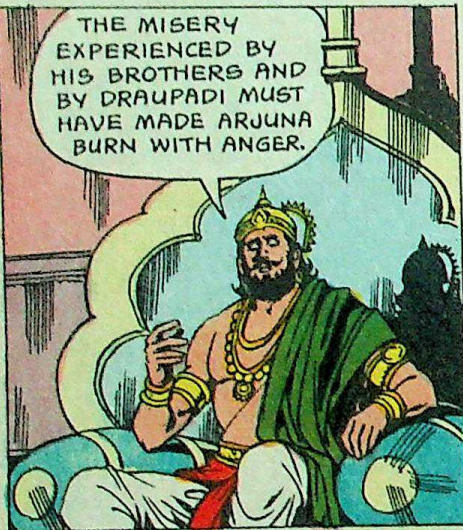


"LISTENING TO THE ACCOUNT OF THE BRAHMANA, DURYODHANA BECAME SAD.

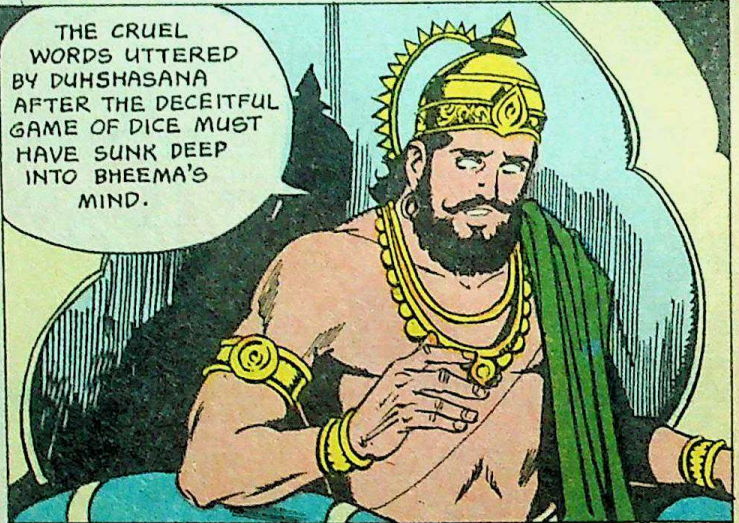
ALAS, THE VIRTUOUS PANDAVAS WHO FORMERLY SLEPT ON SOFT BEDS ARE NOW BEING MADE TO SLEEP ON THE BARE EARTH.



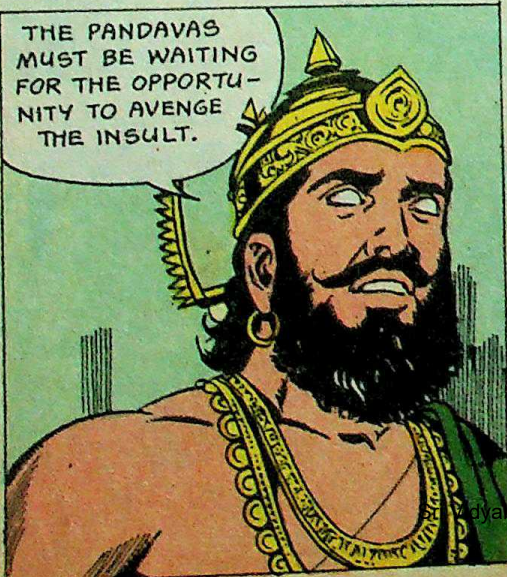
THE MISERY EXPERIENCED BY HIS BROTHERS AND BY DRAUPADI MUST HAVE MADE ARJUNA BURN WITH ANGER.



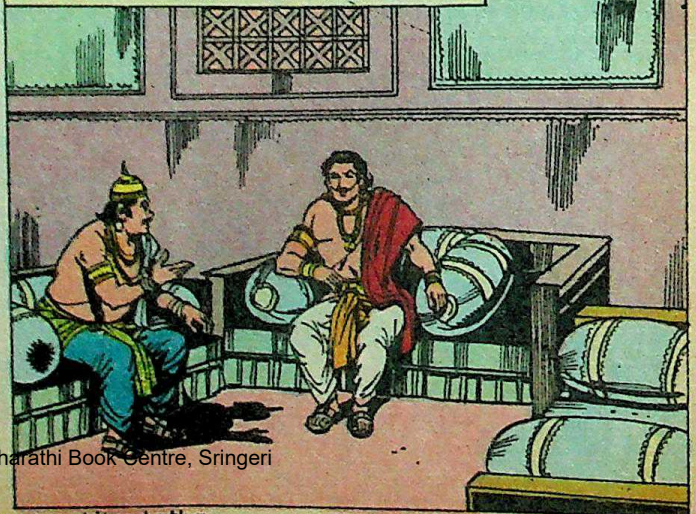
THE CRUEL WORDS UTTERED BY DUHSHASANA AFTER THE DECEITFUL GAME OF DICE MUST HAVE SUNK DEEP INTO BHEEMA'S MIND.



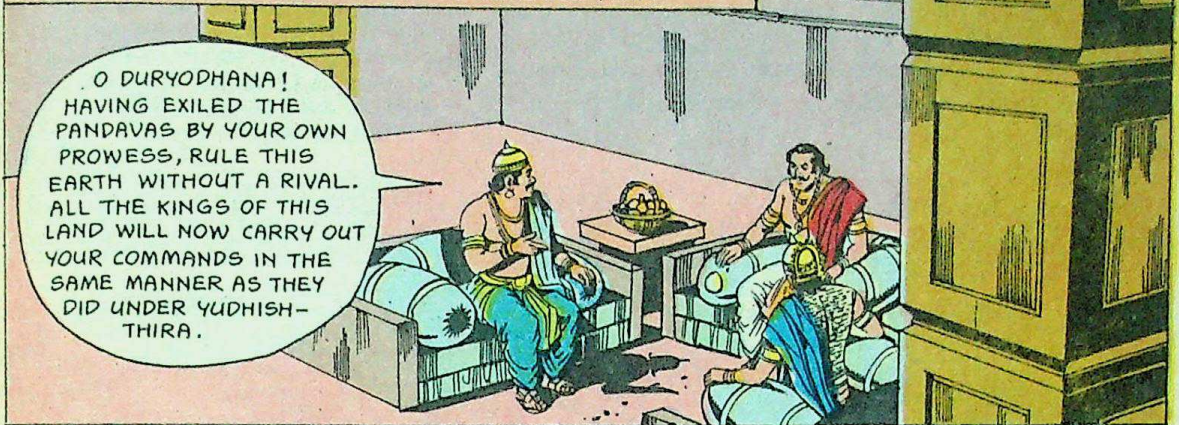
THE PANDAVAS MUST BE WAITING FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO AVENGE THE INSULT.



SHAKUNI HEARD DHRITARASHTRA'S OUTBURST, AND TOLD DURYODHANA ABOUT IT.



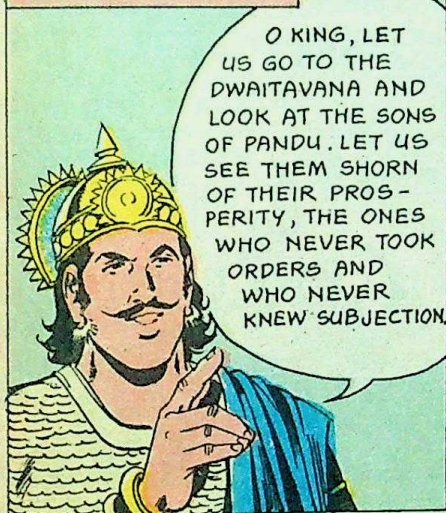
"WHAT HIS FATHER HAD SPOKEN FILLED DURYODHANA WITH GRIEF. SHAKUNI AND KARNA TRIED TO CONSOLE HIM.



O DURYODHANA!

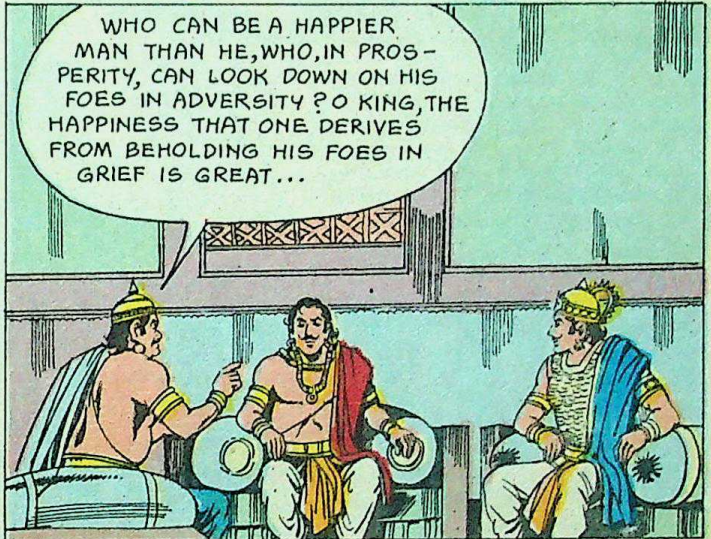
HAVING EXILED THE PANDAVAS BY YOUR OWN PROWESS, RULE THIS EARTH WITHOUT A RIVAL. ALL THE KINGS OF THIS LAND WILL NOW CARRY OUT YOUR COMMANDS IN THE SAME MANNER AS THEY DID UNDER YUDHISH-THIRA.

"THEN KARNA SAID —



O KING, LET US GO TO THE DWAITAVANA AND LOOK AT THE SONS OF PANDU. LET US SEE THEM SHORN OF THEIR PROSPERITY, THE ONES WHO NEVER TOOK ORDERS AND WHO NEVER KNEW SUBJECTION.

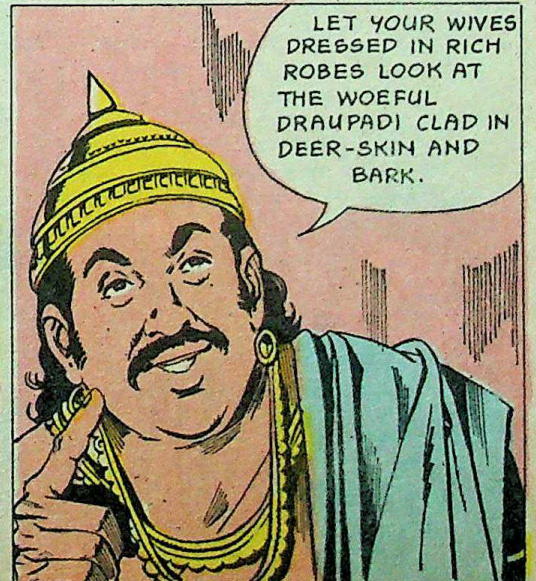
WHO CAN BE A HAPPIER MAN THAN HE, WHO, IN PROSPERITY, CAN LOOK DOWN ON HIS FOES IN ADVERSITY? O KING, THE HAPPINESS THAT ONE DERIVES FROM BEHOLDING HIS FOES IN GRIEF IS GREAT...



...IT IS GREATER THAN WHAT ONE MAY DERIVE FROM THE ACQUISITION OF A SON OR IMMENSE WEALTH OR A KINGDOM.



LET YOUR WIVES DRESSED IN RICH ROBES LOOK AT THE WOEFUL DRAUPADI CLAD IN DEER-SKIN AND BARK.



HEARING SHAKUNI SPEAK THUS, DURYODHANA WAS VERY PLEASED, BUT WAS SOON OVERCOME BY MELANCHOLY. HE SAID—

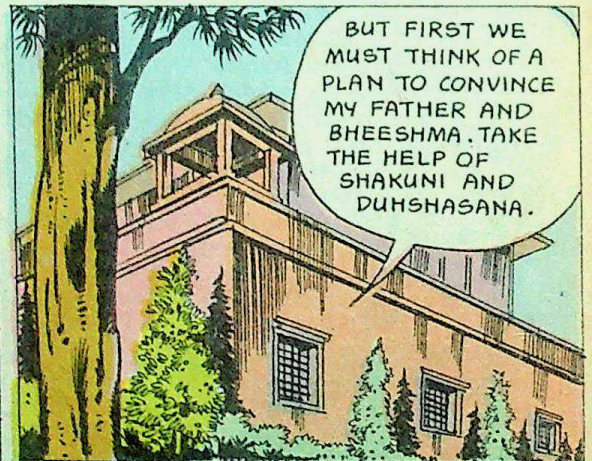
O KARNA! I TOO HAVE THOUGHT ABOUT WHAT YOU SAY. HOWEVER, KING DHRTIRASHTRA WILL NEVER PERMIT IT, IF HE GETS TO KNOW OF OUR MOTIVES. MY FATHER REGARDS THE PANDAVAS MORE POWERFUL THAN US AND IS ALWAYS GRIEVING FOR THEM.



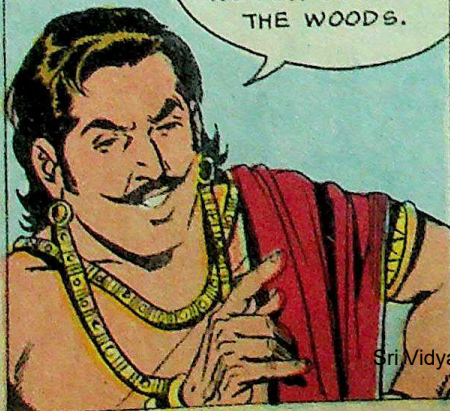
I CANNOT MAKE UP MY MIND AS TO WHETHER I SHOULD GO OR NOT! I WILL CERTAINLY BE PLEASED TO CAST MY EYES ON THE PANDAVAS AND DRAUPADI AS THEY PASS THEIR DAYS IN PAIN AND SORROW.



BUT FIRST WE MUST THINK OF A PLAN TO CONVINCE MY FATHER AND BHEESHMA. TAKE THE HELP OF SHAKUNI AND DUHSHASANA.



TOMORROW WHEN I AM WITH BHEESHMA IN THE PRESENCE OF MY FATHER, YOU MENTION THE PRETEXT ON WHICH WE MAY GO TO THE WOODS.



THAT NIGHT KARNA WENT TO MEET DURYODHANA.

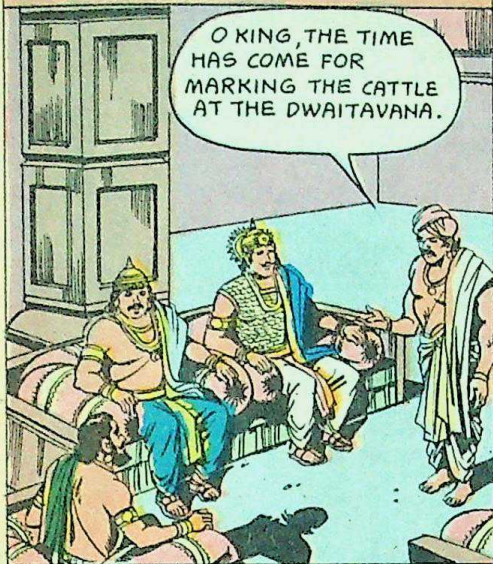
O KING, WE HAVE DEVISED A PLAN BY WHICH DHRTIRASHTRA WILL SURELY ALLOW US TO GO TO DWAITAVANA.



DURYODHANA APPROVED OF THE PLAN SUGGESTED BY KARNA.

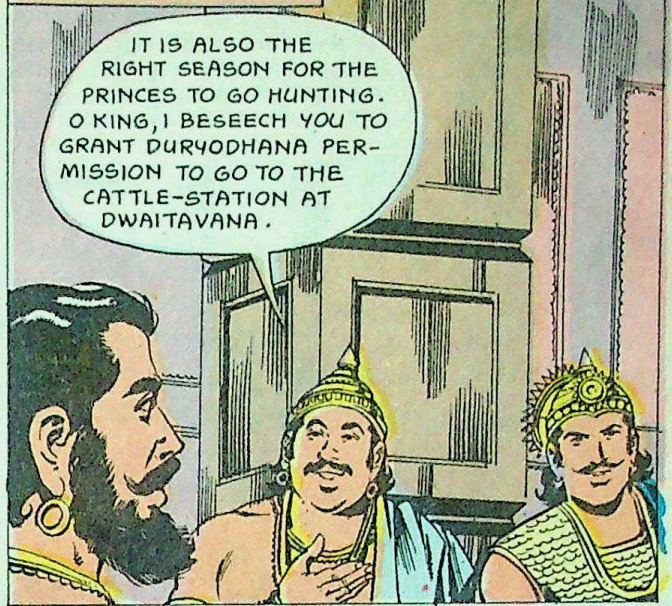
"NEXT DAY, INSTRUCTED BY KARNA AND SHAKUNI, SAMANGA, A COWHERD, APPROACHED DHRITARASHTRA.

O KING, THE TIME HAS COME FOR MARKING THE CATTLE AT THE DWAITAVANA.

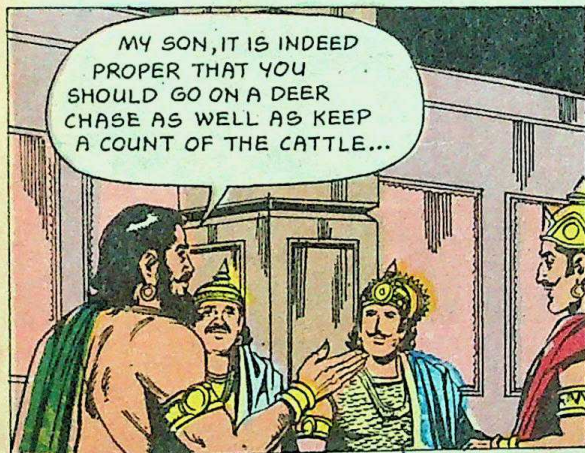


"THEN SHAKUNI SAID —

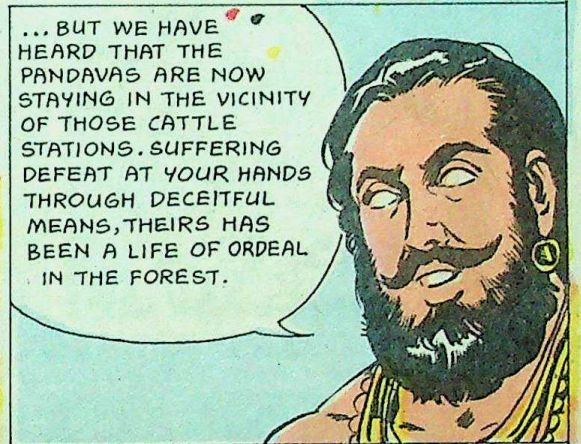
IT IS ALSO THE RIGHT SEASON FOR THE PRINCES TO GO HUNTING. O KING, I BESEECH YOU TO GRANT DURYODHANA PERMISSION TO GO TO THE CATTLE-STATION AT DWAITAVANA.



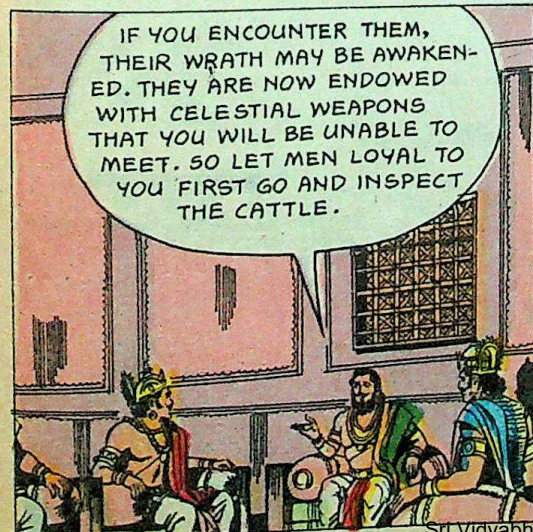
MY SON, IT IS INDEED PROPER THAT YOU SHOULD GO ON A DEER CHASE AS WELL AS KEEP A COUNT OF THE CATTLE...



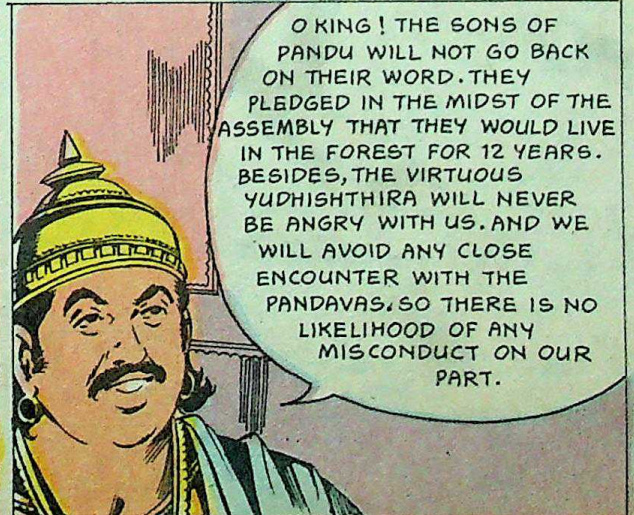
... BUT WE HAVE HEARD THAT THE PANDAVAS ARE NOW STAYING IN THE VICINITY OF THOSE CATTLE STATIONS. SUFFERING DEFEAT AT YOUR HANDS THROUGH DECEITFUL MEANS, THEIRS HAS BEEN A LIFE OF ORDEAL IN THE FOREST.



IF YOU ENCOUNTER THEM, THEIR WRATH MAY BE AWAKENED. THEY ARE NOW ENDOWED WITH CELESTIAL WEAPONS THAT YOU WILL BE UNABLE TO MEET. SO LET MEN LOYAL TO YOU FIRST GO AND INSPECT THE CATTLE.



O KING! THE SONS OF PANDU WILL NOT GO BACK ON THEIR WORD. THEY PLEDGED IN THE MIDST OF THE ASSEMBLY THAT THEY WOULD LIVE IN THE FOREST FOR 12 YEARS. BESIDES, THE VIRTUOUS YUDHISHTHIRA WILL NEVER BE ANGRY WITH US. AND WE WILL AVOID ANY CLOSE ENCOUNTER WITH THE PANDAVAS, SO THERE IS NO LIKELIHOOD OF ANY MISCONDUCT ON OUR PART.

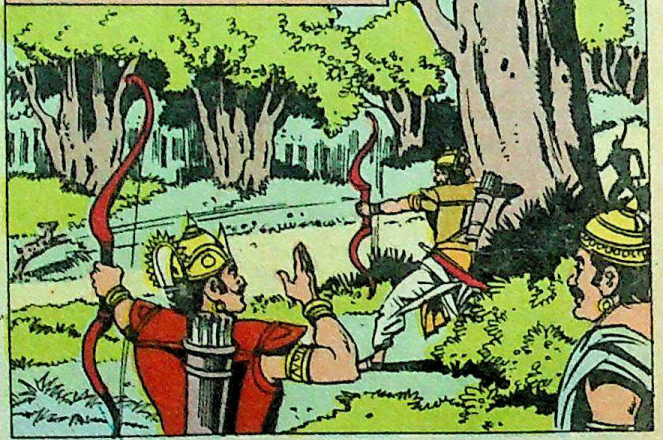


THUS DURYODHANA WAS PERSUADED TO GRANT PERMISSION TO DURYODHANA AND HIS COUNSELLORS TO GO TO DWAITAVANA. THEY SET OUT ACCOMPANIED BY HUNDREDS OF SOLDIERS AND OTHER CITIZENS OF HASTINAPURA AND CAMPED SIX KILOMETRES OUTSIDE THE FOREST.

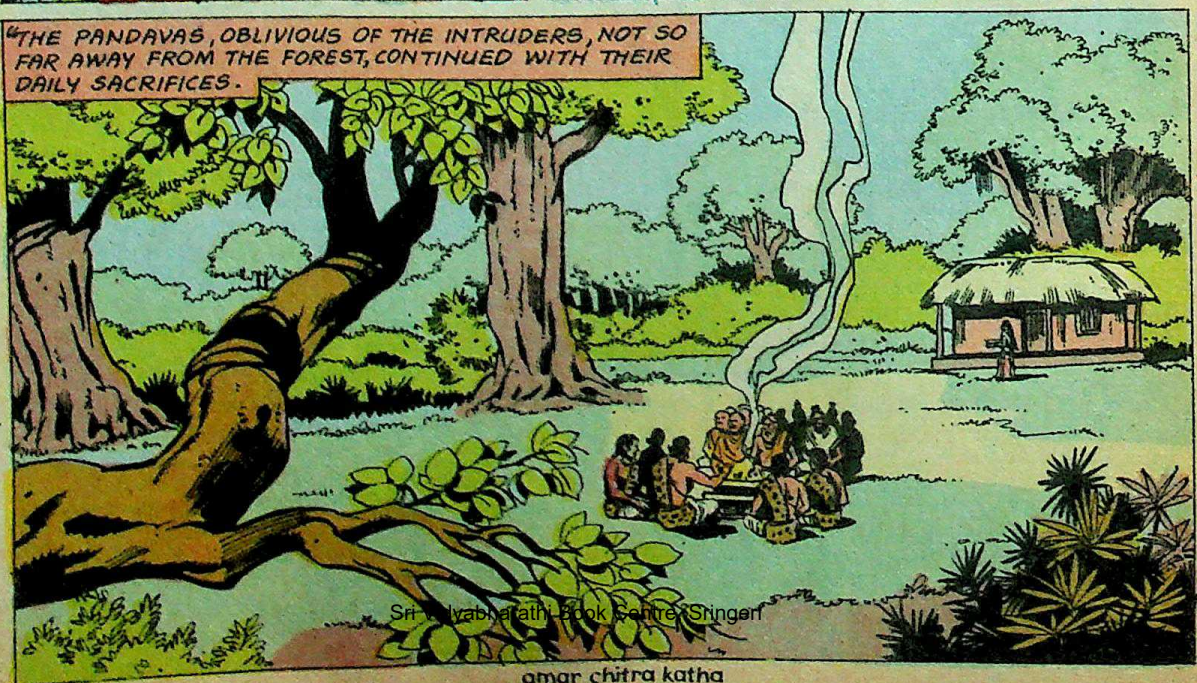
HAVING SET UP CAMP, DURYODHANA SPENT SOME TIME IN CONDUCTING A CENSUS OF THE CATTLE.



THEN HE AND HIS FOLLOWERS CONCENTRATED ON THE GAME OF HUNTING.



THE PANDAVAS, OBVIOUS OF THE INTRUDERS, NOT SO FAR AWAY FROM THE FOREST, CONTINUED WITH THEIR DAILY SACRIFICES.

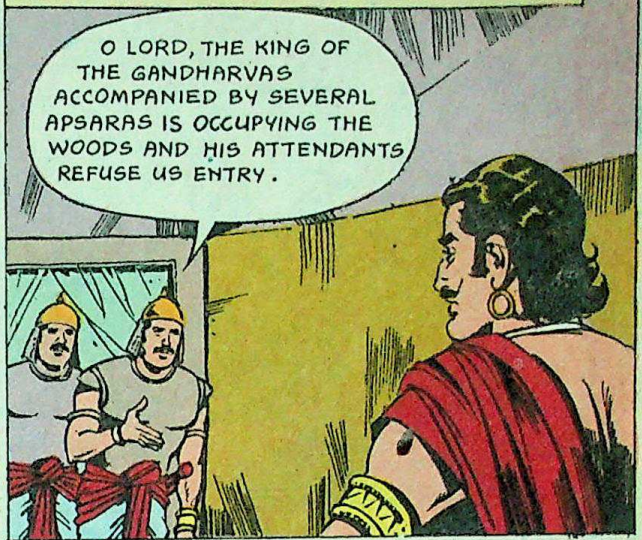


ONE DAY SOME OF DURYODHANA'S MEN STRAYED INTO THE FOREST. SUDDENLY—



STOP! YOU CANNOT ENTER THESE WOODS. OUR KING HAS COME HERE TO SPORT AND WE WILL NOT ALLOW ANY INTRUSION HERE.

THE MEN FROM HASTINAPURA WERE THUS FORCED TO RETURN TO THEIR CAMP.



O LORD, THE KING OF THE GANDHARVAS ACCOMPANIED BY SEVERAL APSARAS IS OCCUPYING THE WOODS AND HIS ATTENDANTS REFUSE US ENTRY.

DURYODHANA AT ONCE DESPATCHED A BAND OF ABLE SOLDIERS TO SETTLE THE MATTER.

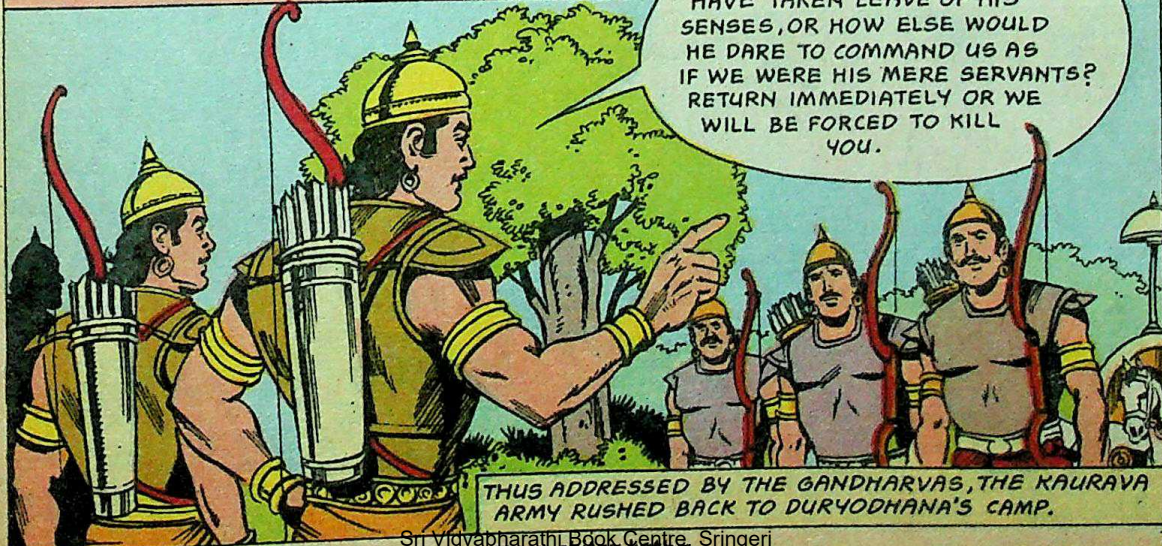


THE SOLDIERS WENT BACK TO THE WOODS AND ADDRESSED THE GANDHARVAS.



THE MIGHTY KING DURYODHANA, SON OF DHRITARASHTRA, WILL BE HERE SOON ON A HUNT. STAND ASIDE.

THE GANDHARVAS, HOWEVER, LAUGHED AND SAID:



YOUR FOOLISH KING MUST HAVE TAKEN LEAVE OF HIS SENSES, OR HOW ELSE WOULD HE DARE TO COMMAND US AS IF WE WERE HIS MERE SERVANTS? RETURN IMMEDIATELY OR WE WILL BE FORCED TO KILL YOU.

THUS ADDRESSED BY THE GANDHARVAS, THE KAURAVA ARMY RUSHED BACK TO DURYODHANA'S CAMP.

"DURYODHANA WAS FILLED WITH RAGE WHEN THE MATTER WAS REPORTED TO HIM.

THE KURUS MARCHED INTO DWAITAVANA DISREGARDING THE GANDHARVAS.

PUNISH THE WRETCHES WHO DARE TO DEFY ME.

GO BACK!

GO BACK!

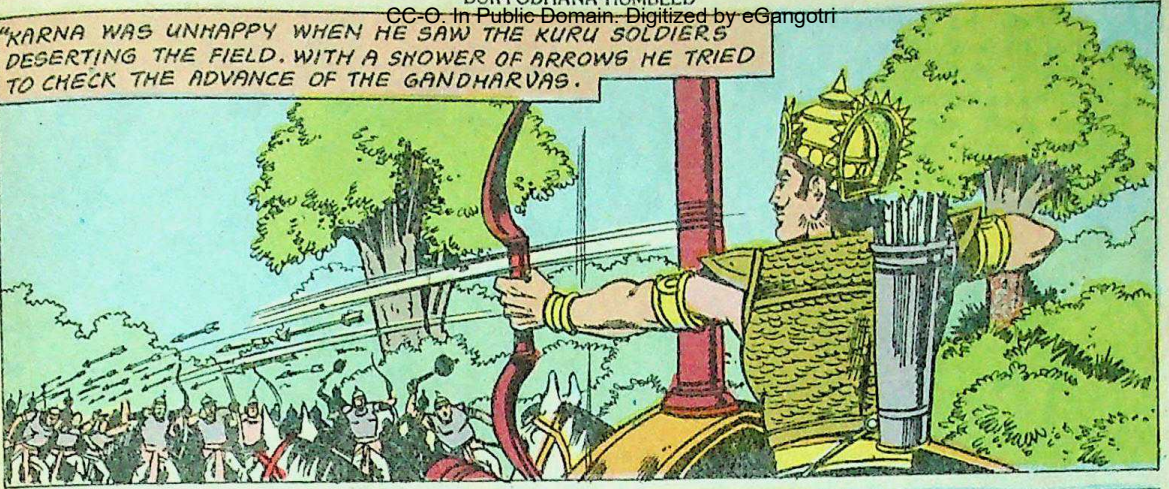
"THE GANDHARVA WARRIORS RUSHED TO THEIR KING CHITRASENA FOR ADVICE.

PUNISH THE WRETCHES FOR THEIR INSOLENCE.

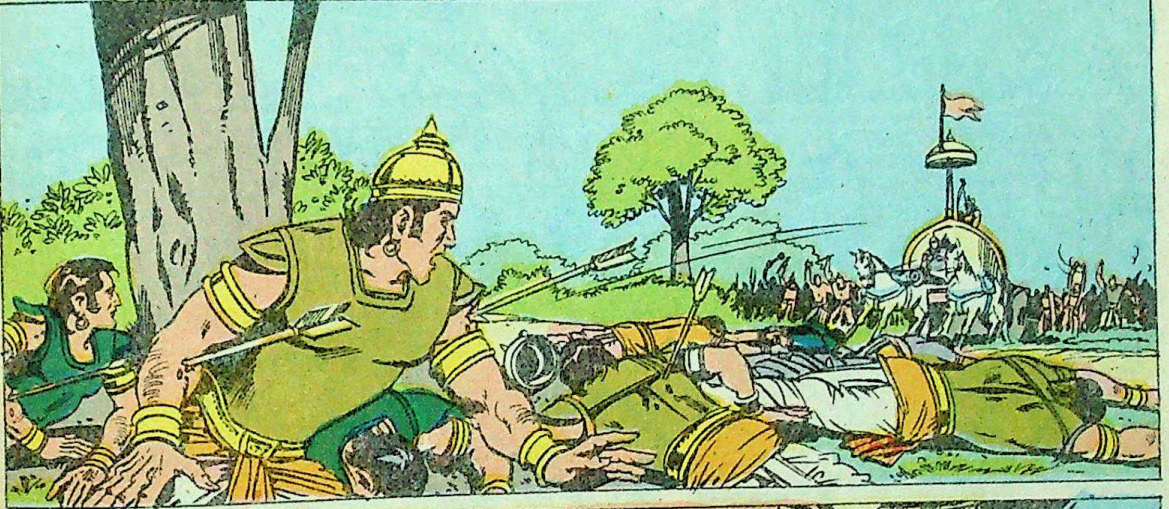
"THE GANDHARVAS RETURNED IN FULL FORCE AND RUSHED AT THE KAURAVA SOLDIERS HOLDING UP THEIR WEAPONS.

"THE KAURAVA SOLDIERS WERE OVERPOWERED.

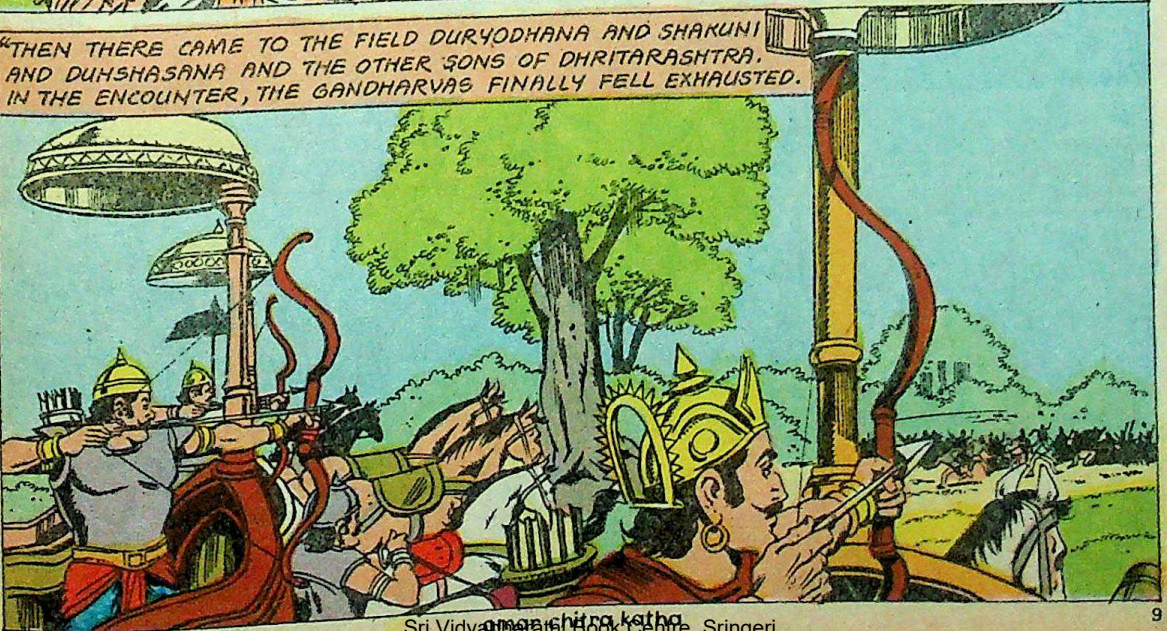
"KARNA WAS UNHAPPY WHEN HE SAW THE KURU SOLDIERS DESERTING THE FIELD. WITH A SHOWER OF ARROWS HE TRIED TO CHECK THE ADVANCE OF THE GANDHARVAS."



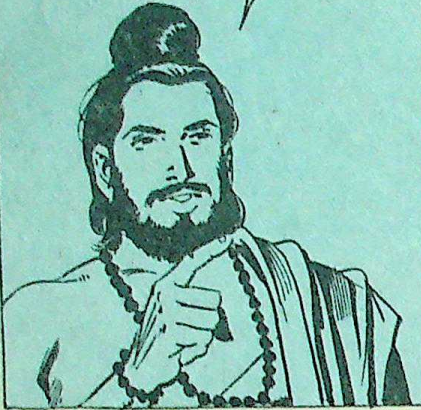
"HUNDREDS OF GANDHARVAS FELL TO KARNA'S SHARP ARROWS."



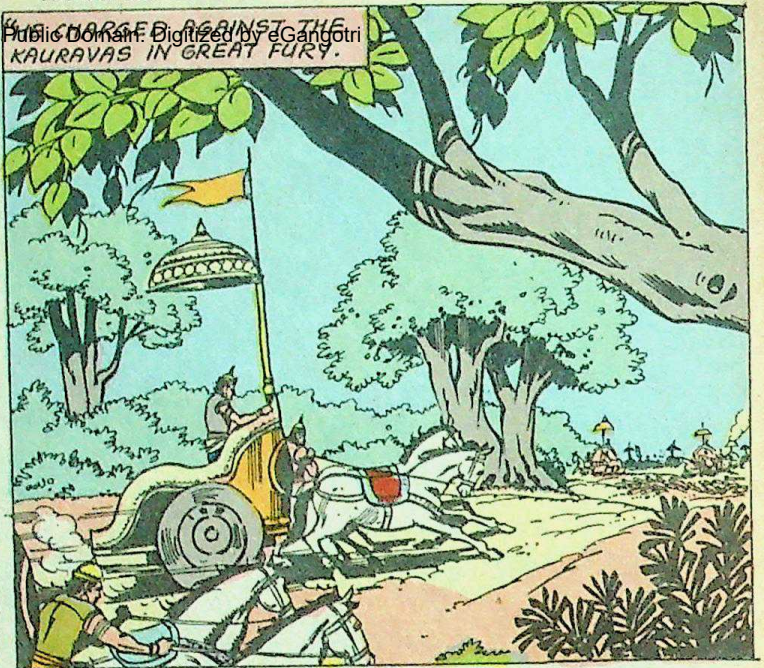
"THEN THERE CAME TO THE FIELD DURYODHANA AND SHAKUNI AND DUHSHASANA AND THE OTHER SONS OF DHRTIRASHTRA. IN THE ENCOUNTER, THE GANDHARVAS FINALLY FELL EXHAUSTED."



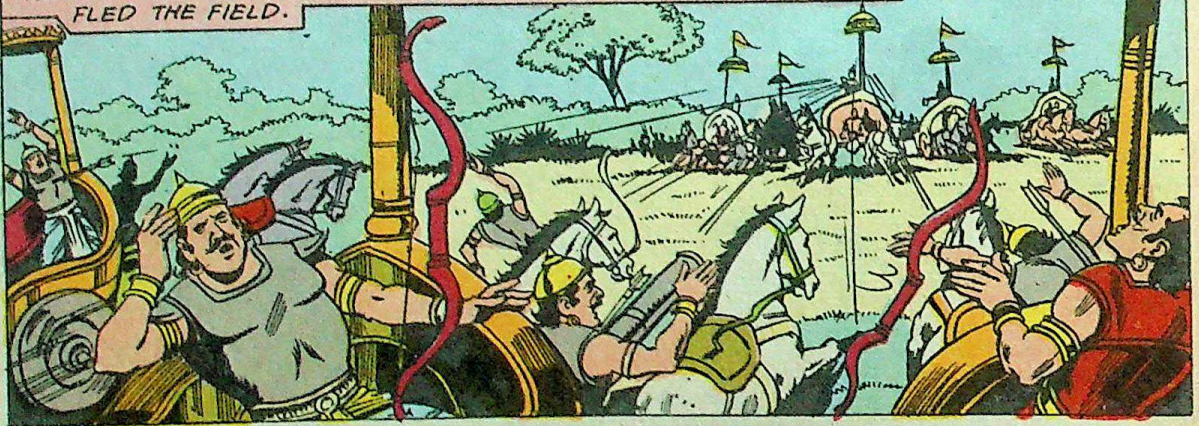
SEEING THE GANDHARVAS
YIELDING TO FEAR,
CHITRASENA, ROUSED
TO ANGER, SPRANG FROM
HIS SEAT, AND RESOLVED
TO EXTERMINATE THE
KURU ARMY.



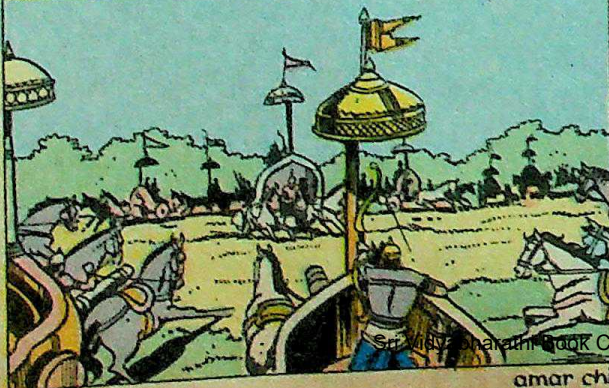
HE CHARGED AGAINST THE
KAURAVAS IN GREAT FURY.



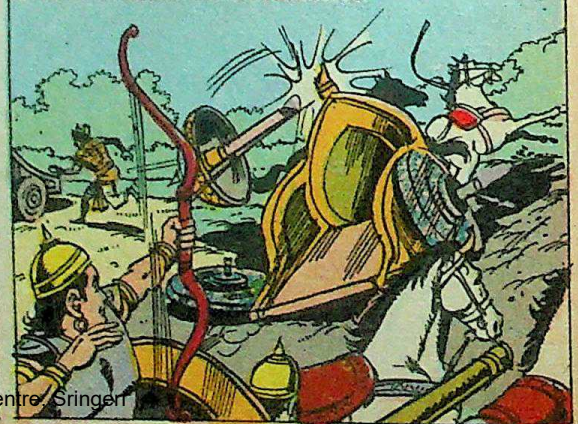
"THE GANDHARVA KING HAD MAGIC POWERS AND HE UNLEASHED
THEM ON THE KAURAVA SOLDIERS. THEY BECAME BEWITCHED AND
FLED THE FIELD.



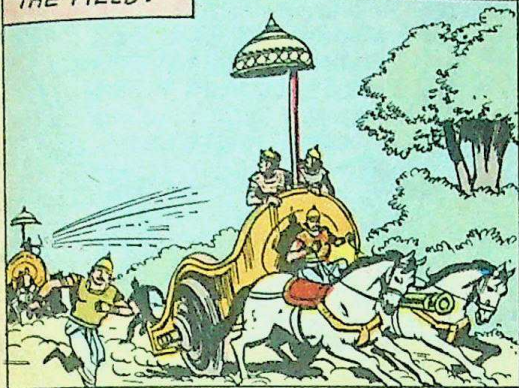
"AFTER THE KURUS HAD FLED, THE
GANDHARVAS TURNED TO KARNA WHO
CONTINUED TO BATTLE. THEY
SURROUNDED HIM...



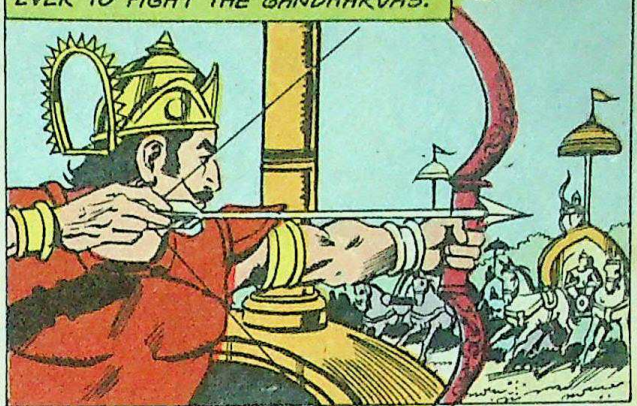
"... FORCED HIM TO GET OFF HIS CHARIOT
AND THEN DESTROYED IT.



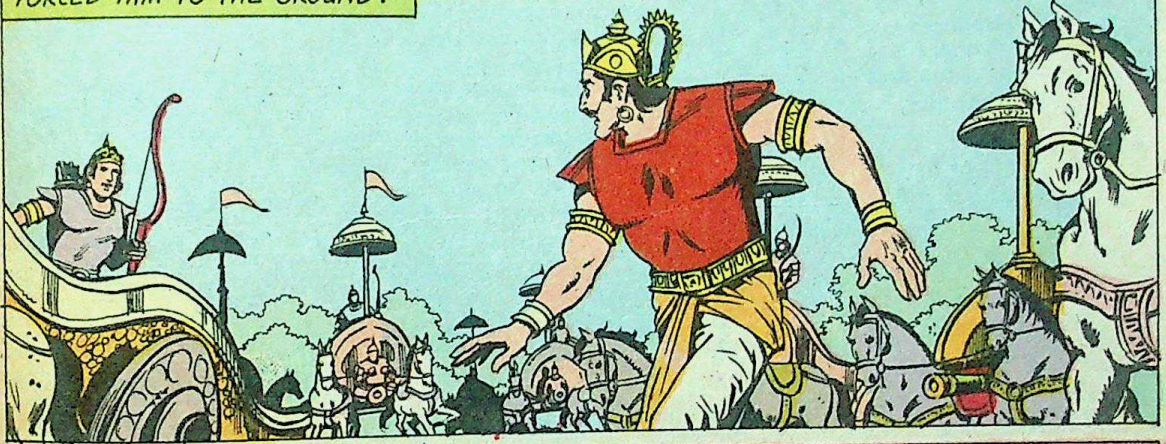
"KARNA LEAPT ON TO ANOTHER CHARIOT BUT HE COULD NOT KEEP UP FOR LONG AND WITHDREW FROM THE FIELD."



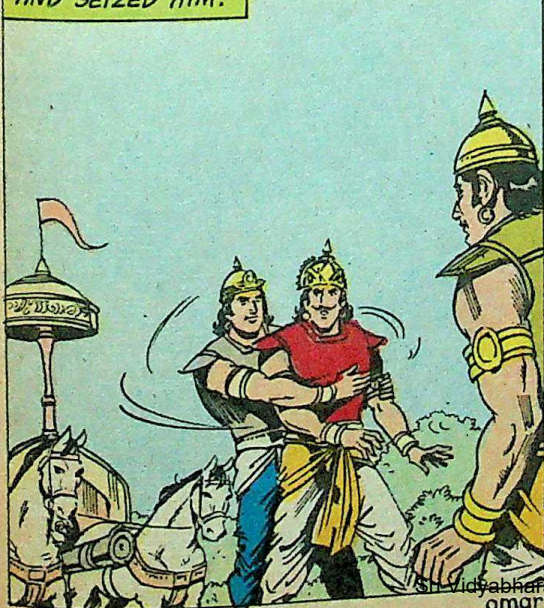
"BEHOLDING ALL HIS LOYAL FOLLOWERS FLEEING, DURYODHANA WAS MORE DETERMINED THAN EVER TO FIGHT THE GANDHARVAS."



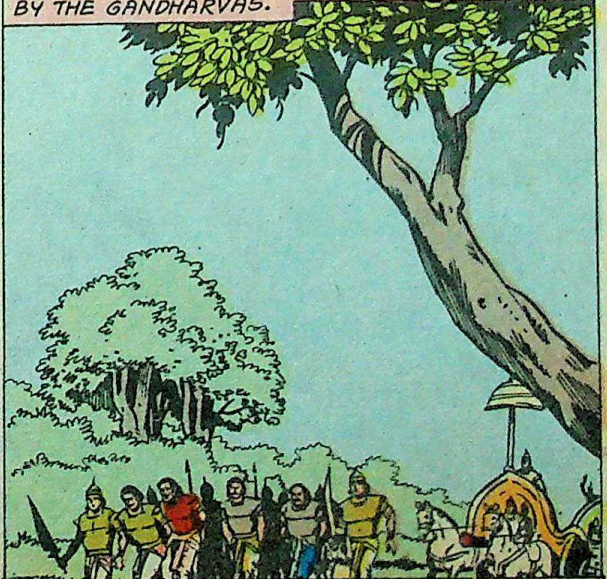
"BUT SOON THE GANDHARVAS SURROUNDED DURYODHANA'S CHARIOT AND FORCED HIM TO THE GROUND."



"THEN CHITRASENA RUSHED FORWARD AND SEIZED HIM."

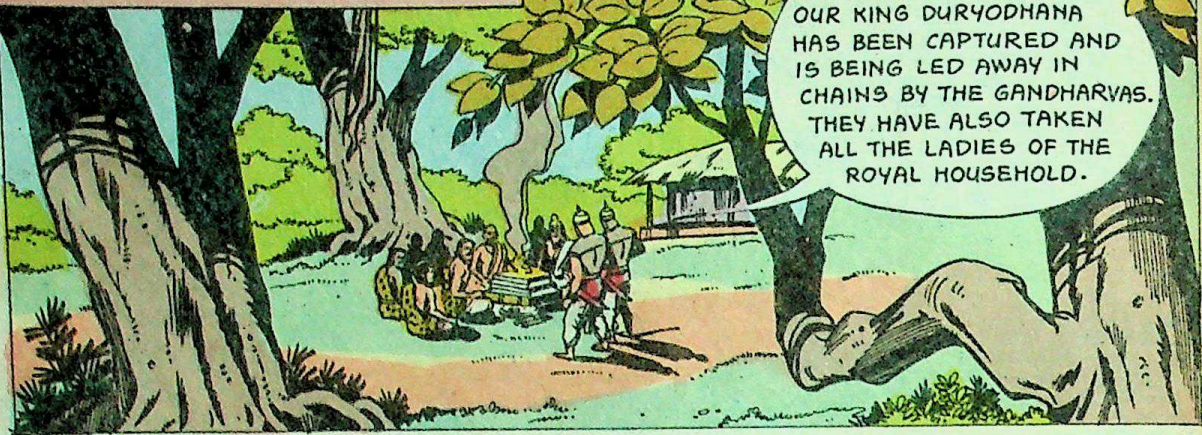


"DURYODHANA, DUHSHASANA AND A HOST OF OTHER KAURAVAS WERE TAKEN PRISONERS BY THE GANDHARVAS."



"SEEING DURYODHANA BEING TAKEN CAPTIVE, SOME OF HIS MEN APPROACHED THE PANDAVAS—

O YUDHISHTHIRA,
OUR KING DURYODHANA
HAS BEEN CAPTURED AND
IS BEING LED AWAY IN
CHAINS BY THE GANDHARVAS.
THEY HAVE ALSO TAKEN
ALL THE LADIES OF THE
ROYAL HOUSEHOLD.



O YUDHISHTHIRA,
PLEASE COME TO OUR
RESCUE! RELEASE
OUR KING AND OUR
BROTHERS FROM THE
GANDHARVAS.



"BUT AN ANGRY BHEEMA RETORTED —

WHAT WE SHOULD HAVE
DONE OURSELVES HAS
BEEN ACCOMPLISHED BY
THE GANDHARVAS. WE
ARE FORTUNATE INDEED
THAT THERE ARE SOME
PEOPLE IN THE WORLD
WHO DESIRE TO DO
GOOD TO US.

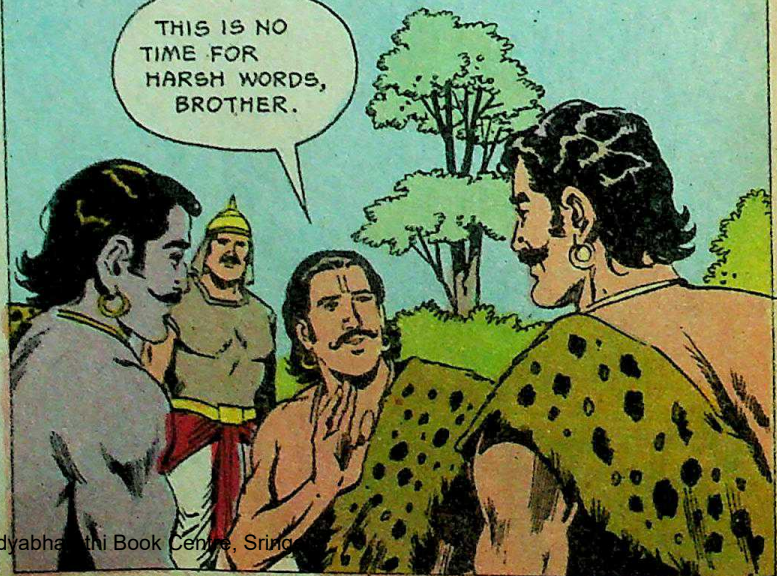


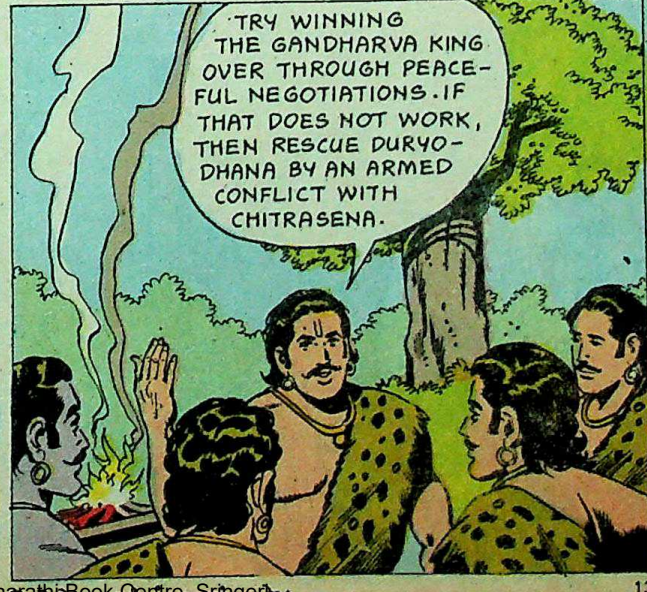
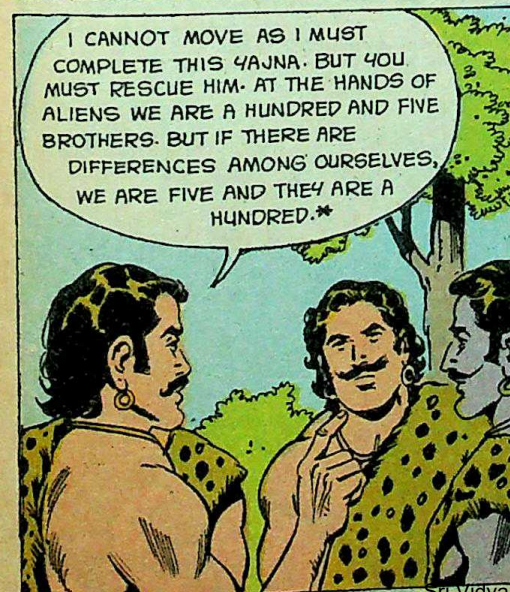
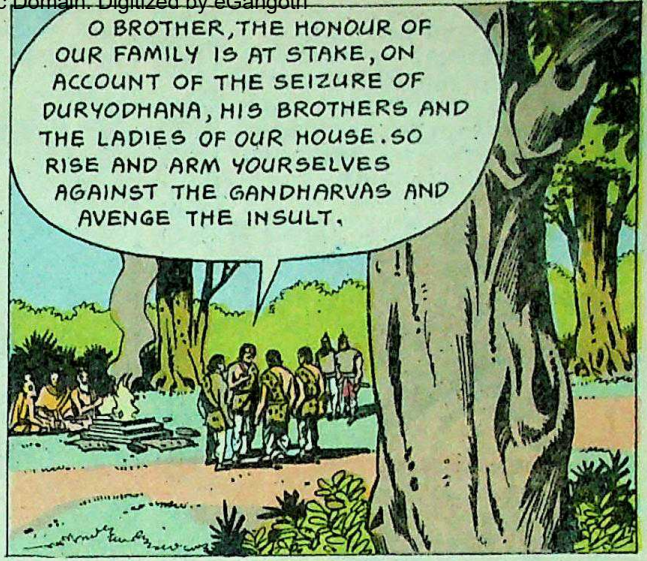
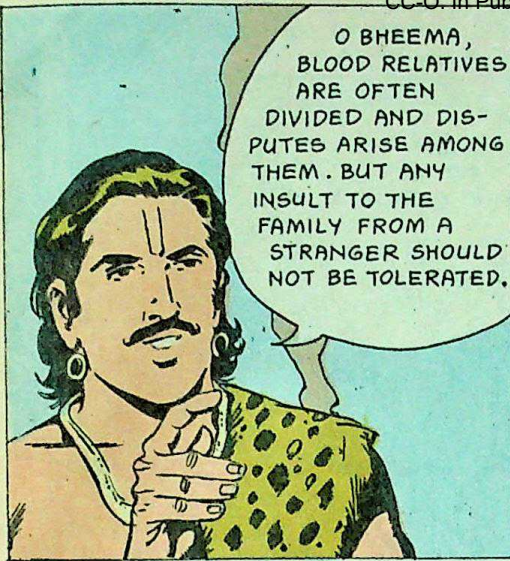
DURYODHANA IS AN
EVIL MAN. HE WANTS
TO SEE US SUFFER
AS HE ENJOYS
HIMSELF ON THE
THRONE.



"YUDHISHTHIRA SAID —

THIS IS NO
TIME FOR
HARSH WORDS,
BROTHER.





HEARING THE WORDS OF YUDHISHTHIRA, THE PANDAVAS PREPARED THEMSELVES TO GO AND FREE DURYODHANA. ARMING THEMSELVES WITH BOWS AND ARROWS, THEY SET OUT TO ENCOUNTER THE GANDHARVAS.

“AND WHEN THE PANDAVAS MET THE GANDHARVAS, ARJUNA SAID —

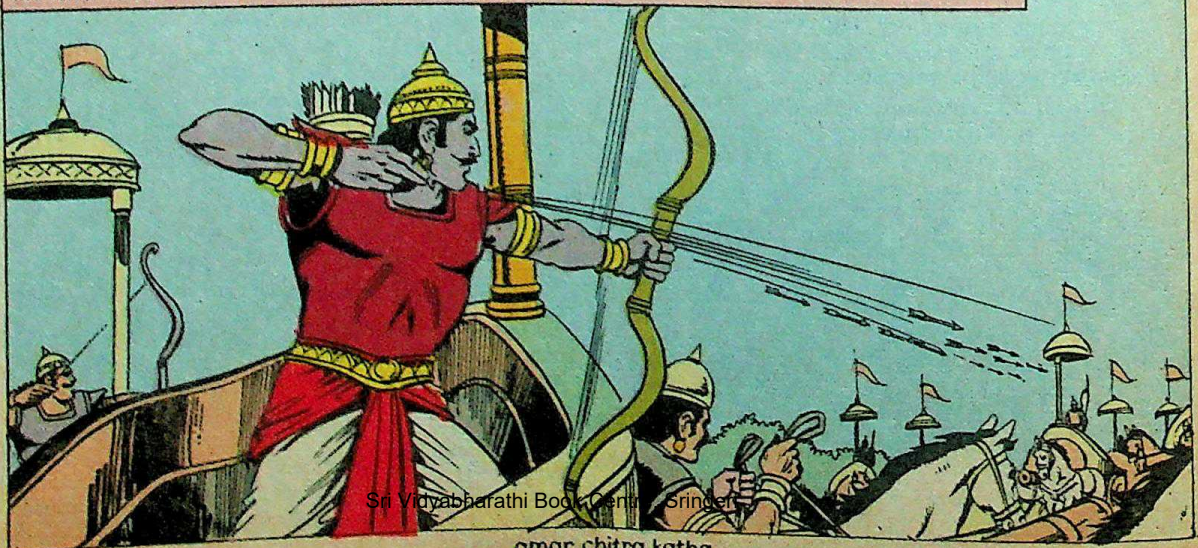
RELEASE MY BROTHER, KING DURYODHANA.

“BUT THE GANDHARVAS ONLY LAUGHED AND SAID —

O CHILD, THERE IS ONLY ONE PERSON IN THE WORLD WHOSE ORDERS WE OBEY, AND HE IS OUR CHIEF. NO ONE ELSE CAN ORDER US ABOUT.

IT DOES NOT BEHAVE CHITRASENA TO ABDUCT OTHER'S WOMEN. RELEASE THEM AND THE SONS OF DHRTIRASHTRA. OR ELSE...

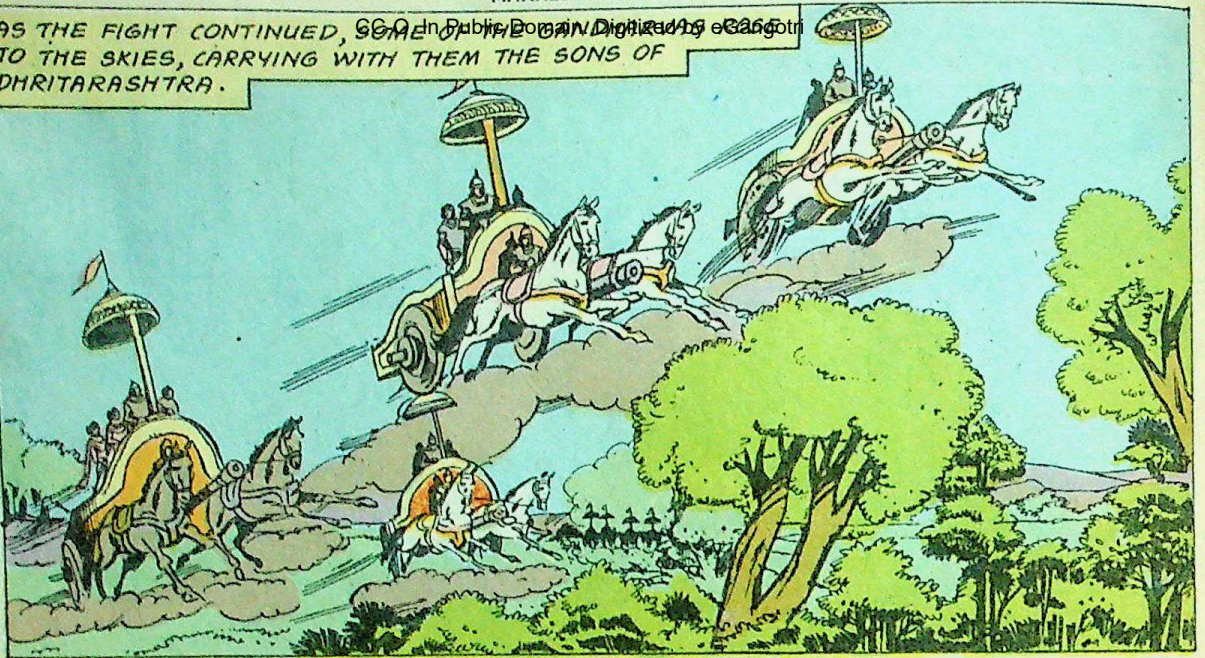
“... AND ARJUNA THEN RELEASED A SHOWER OF ARROWS AT THE GANDHARVAS.



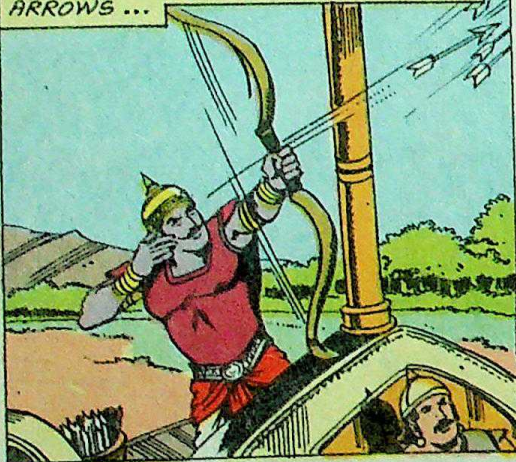
"THE FOUR PANDAVAS FOUGHT AGAINST THE GANDHARVA HORDES.
ARJUNA SLEW THEM BY THE HUNDREDS WITH HIS CELESTIAL WEAPONS."



"AS THE FIGHT CONTINUED, SOME OF THE PANDAVAS RANG TO THE SKIES, CARRYING WITH THEM THE SONS OF DHRTARASHTRA.



"BEHOLDING THIS, ARJUNA COVERED THE SKIES WITH A SHOWER OF ARROWS ...



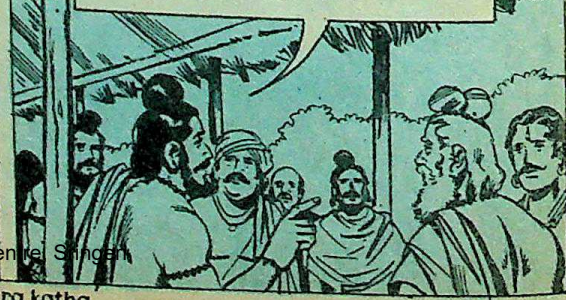
"...KILLING A LARGE NUMBER OF GANDHARVAS AND CAUSING PANIC AMONG THEM.



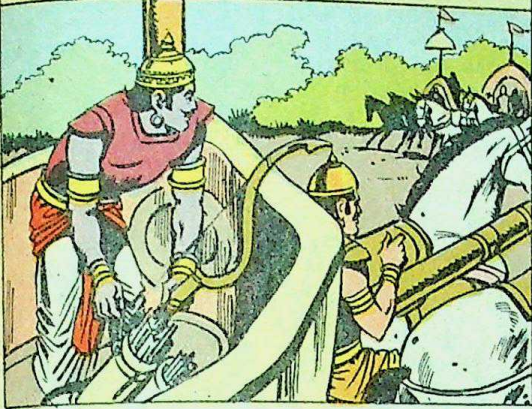
"REALISING THE DAMAGE DONE TO HIS FORCES, CHITRASENA RUSHED TO ATTACK ARJUNA.



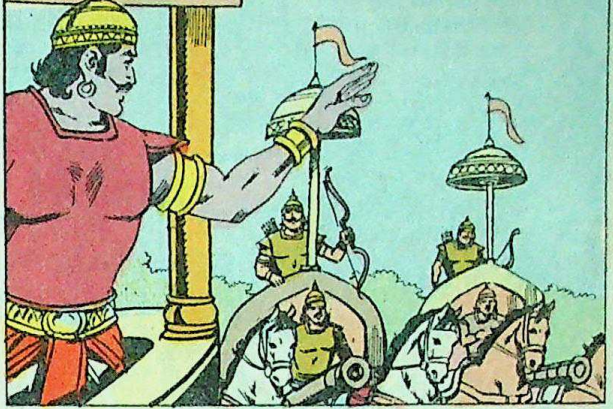
CHITRASENA FOUGHT WITH THE HELP OF ILLUSORY FORCES. BUT ARJUNA USED HIS CELESTIAL WEAPONS TO COUNTER THEM. EXHAUSTED BY THE BATTLE, CHITRASENA APPEARED BEFORE THE PANDAVAS.



"REMEMBERING HOW CHITRASENA HAD BEFRIENDED HIM AT THE ABODE OF INDRA, ARJUNA WITHDREW HIS WEAPONS."



"SOON THE OTHER SONS OF PANDU TOO WITHDREW THEIR BOWS AND CHECKED THEIR RACING STEEDS."

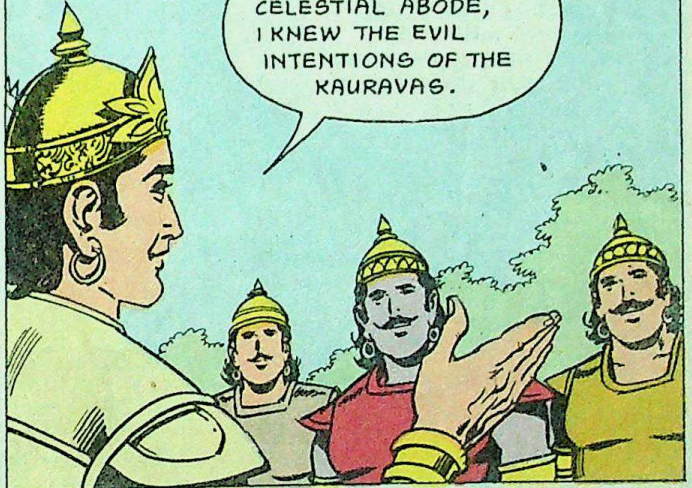


"ARJUNA THEN SMILINGLY SAID TO CHITRASENA —

"O CHITRASENA, WHY ARE YOU PUNISHING THE KAURAVAS? WHAT PURPOSE DOES IT SERVE TO CAPTURE DURYODHANA AND HIS WIVES?"



"O ARJUNA, FROM MY CELESTIAL ABODE, I KNEW THE EVIL INTENTIONS OF THE KAURAVAS."



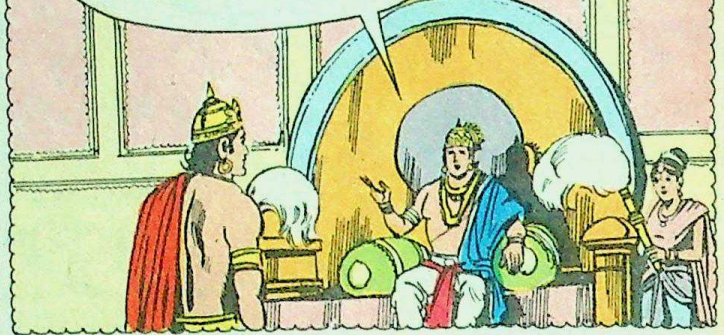
"I KNEW THAT THEY HAD COME TO THIS FOREST TO MOCK AT YOU AND YOUR BROTHERS AND THE FAIR DRAUPADI PLUNGED IN MISFORTUNE AND ADVERSITY."



INDRA WAS ALSO AWARE OF THE INTENTIONS OF THE KAURAVAS. HE SAID TO ME...



GO AND BRING DURYODHANA HERE IN CHAINS ALONG WITH HIS COUNSELLORS. ARJUNA AND HIS BROTHERS SHOULD BE PROTECTED BY YOU IN BATTLE, FOR HE IS YOUR FRIEND AND DISCIPLE.



O CHITRASENA, IF YOU WISH TO MAKE ME HAPPY, SET DURYODHANA FREE. FOR THIS IS THE WISH OF OUR BROTHER YUDHISHTHIRA.



THIS SINFUL WRETCH IS FULL OF VANITY. HE HAS DECEIVED AND WRONGED BOTH DRAPADI AND YUDHISHTHIRA AND DOES NOT DESERVE TO BE SET FREE.



YUDHISHTHIRA IS NOT AWARE OF THE PURPOSE OF THE KAURAVAS' VISIT. LET HIM DECIDE FOR HIMSELF AFTER HEARING EVERYTHING.

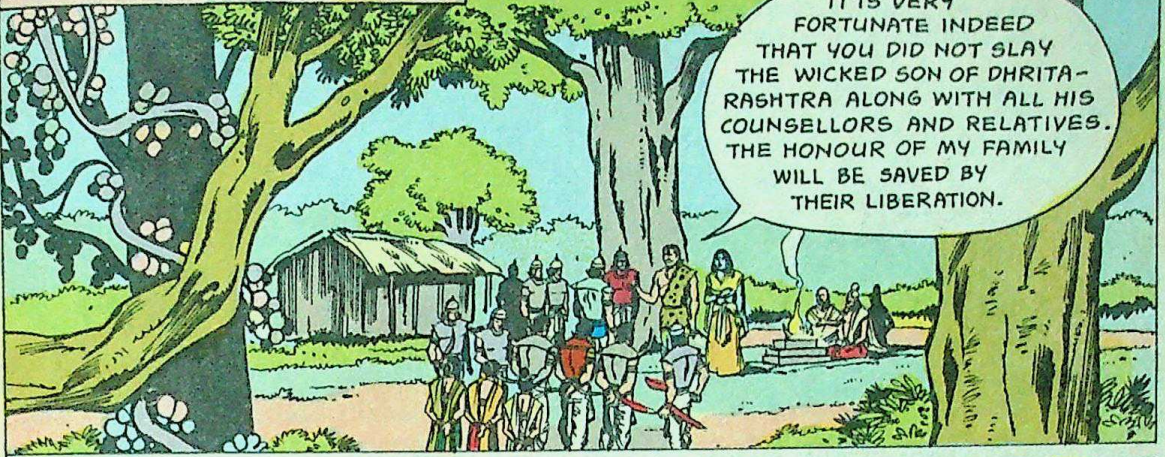


SO THEY ALL WENT TO YUDHISHTHIRA.



BUT THE BENEVOLENT YUDHISHTHIRA REQUESTED THAT THE KAURAVAS BE RELEASED EVEN AFTER BEING TOLD OF DURYODHANA'S EVIL INTENTION.

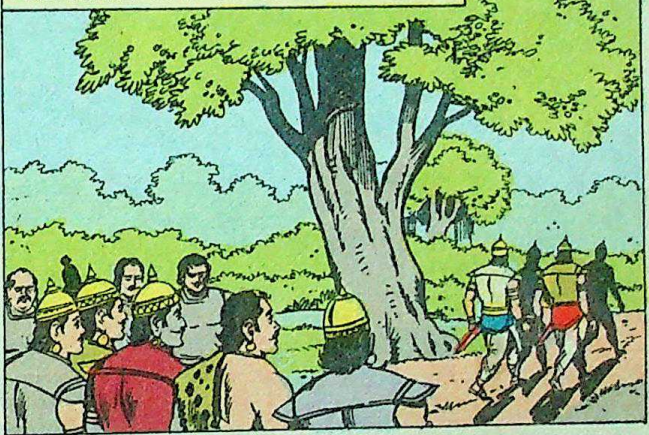
IT IS VERY FORTUNATE INDEED THAT YOU DID NOT SLAY THE WICKED SON OF DHRTA-RASHTRA ALONG WITH ALL HIS COUNSELLORS AND RELATIVES. THE HONOUR OF MY FAMILY WILL BE SAVED BY THEIR LIBERATION.



I AM GLAD TO SEE YOU ALL. COMMAND ME — WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU? AND HAVING OBTAINED ALL YOU WISH, RETURN TO YOUR HEAVENLY ABODE.

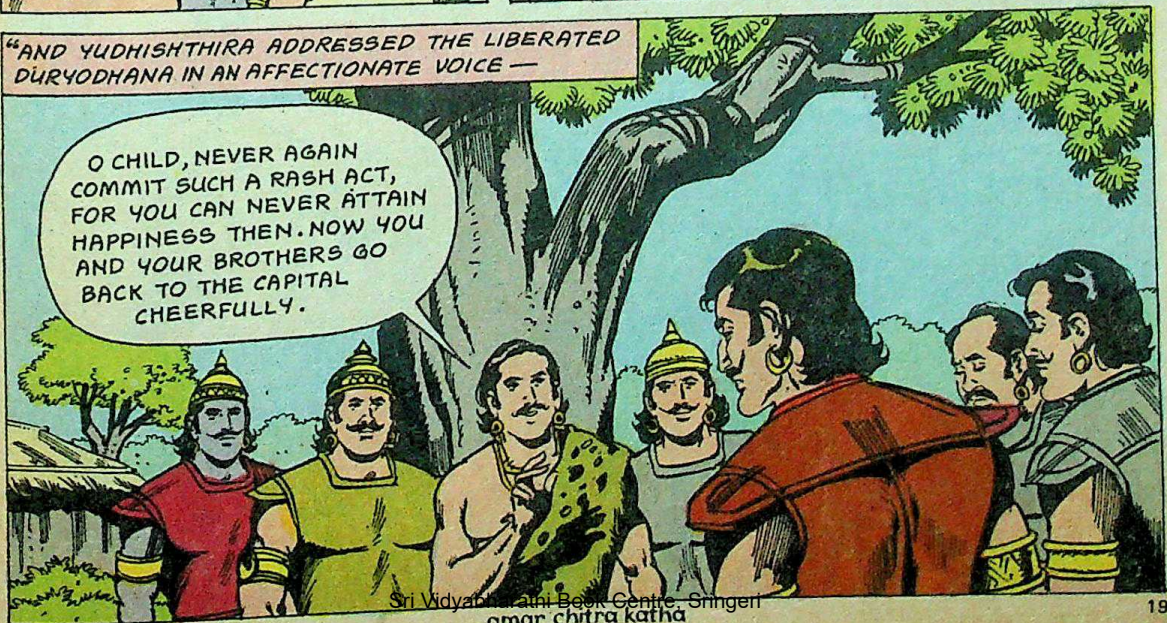


THE GANDHARVAS RELEASED THE KAURAVAS AND DEPARTED.



AND YUDHISHTHIRA ADDRESSED THE LIBERATED DURYODHANA IN AN AFFECTIONATE VOICE —

O CHILD, NEVER AGAIN COMMIT SUCH A RASH ACT, FOR YOU CAN NEVER ATTAIN HAPPINESS THEN. NOW YOU AND YOUR BROTHERS GO BACK TO THE CAPITAL CHEERFULLY.



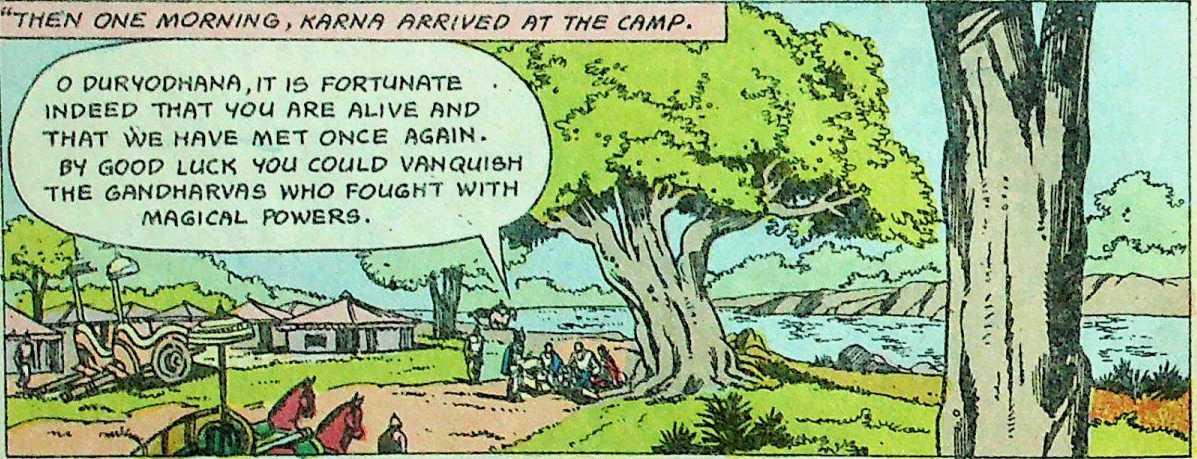
O VAISHAMPAYANA, AFTER THE HUMILIATING DEFEAT AT THE HANDS OF THE GANDHARVAS, IT MUST HAVE BEEN EXCEEDINGLY DIFFICULT FOR DURYODHANA TO RETURN TO HIS CAPITAL.

O MONARCH, AFTER BEING DISMISSED BY YUDHISH-THIRA, DURYODHANA PROCEEDED TOWARDS THE CITY. ON THE WAY HE CAMPED NEAR A RIVER.



"THEN ONE MORNING, KARNA ARRIVED AT THE CAMP.

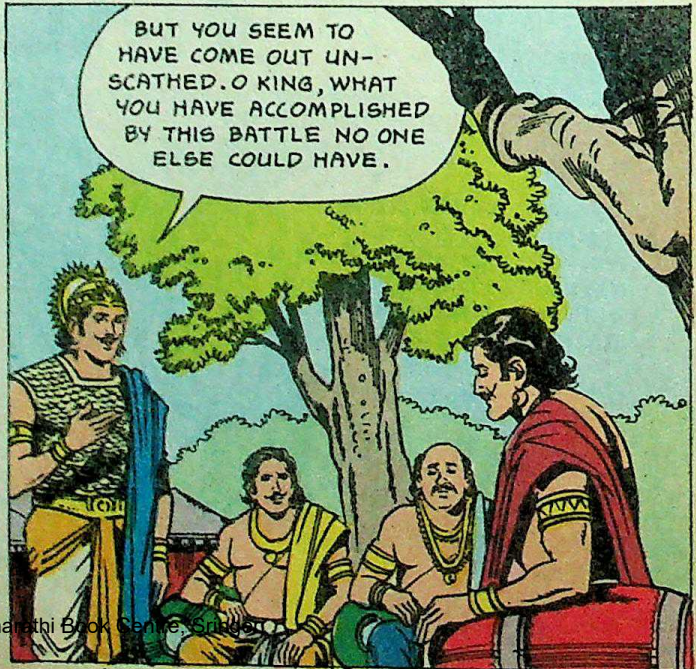
O DURYODHANA, IT IS FORTUNATE INDEED THAT YOU ARE ALIVE AND THAT WE HAVE MET ONCE AGAIN. BY GOOD LUCK YOU COULD VANQUISH THE GANDHARVAS WHO FOUGHT WITH MAGICAL POWERS.



TORMENTED BY THE GANDHARVAS, I MYSELF FLED THE BATTLEFIELD, UNABLE TO WITHSTAND THE FURY OF THE ENEMY ANY LONGER.

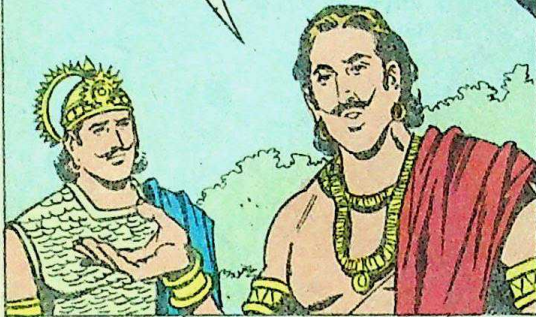


BUT YOU SEEM TO HAVE COME OUT UN-SCATHED. O KING, WHAT YOU HAVE ACCOMPLISHED BY THIS BATTLE NO ONE ELSE COULD HAVE.

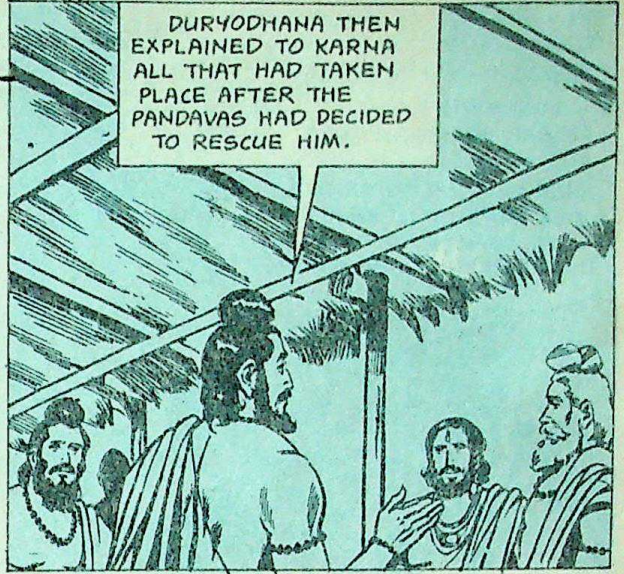


"IN A VOICE CHOKED WITH EMOTION
DURYODHANA SAID —

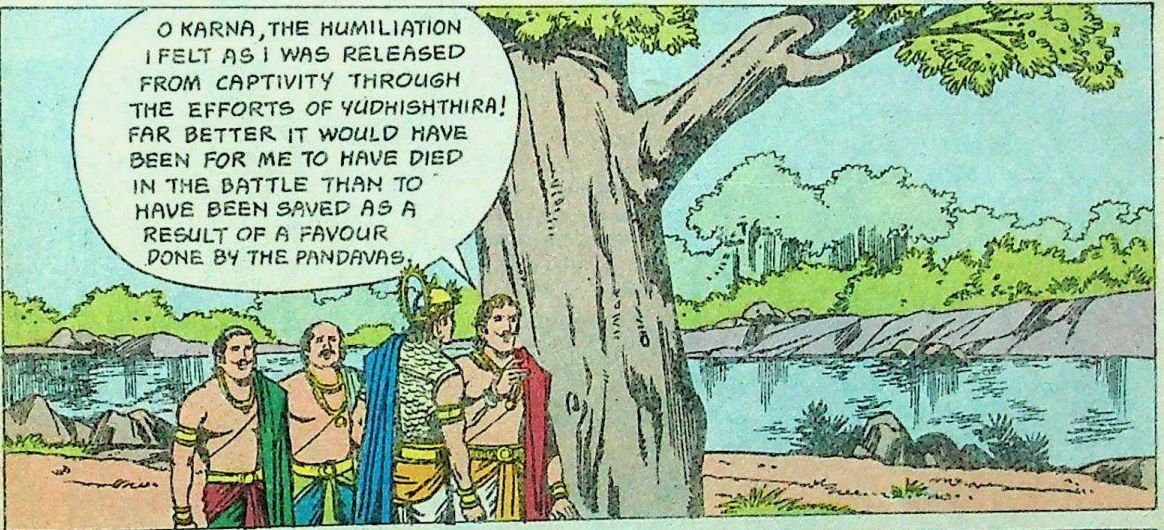
O KARNA, YOU
DO NOT KNOW
WHAT HAPPENED.



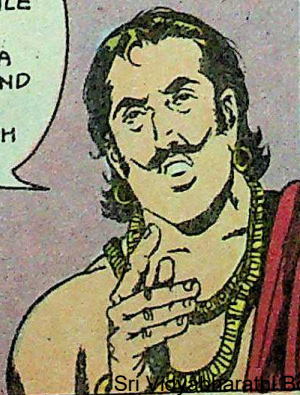
DURYODHANA THEN
EXPLAINED TO KARNA
ALL THAT HAD TAKEN
PLACE AFTER THE
PANDAVAS HAD DECIDED
TO RESCUE HIM.



O KARNA, THE HUMILIATION
I FELT AS I WAS RELEASED
FROM CAPTIVITY THROUGH
THE EFFORTS OF YUDHISHTHIRA!
FAR BETTER IT WOULD HAVE
BEEN FOR ME TO HAVE DIED
IN THE BATTLE THAN TO
HAVE BEEN SAVED AS A
RESULT OF A FAVOUR
DONE BY THE PANDAVAS.



NOW LISTEN TO
WHAT I HAVE TO SAY.
I WILL STAY HERE FOR—
GOING ALL FOOD WHILE
ALL OF YOU RETURN
HOME. I HAVE DONE A
HIGHLY IMPROPER AND
WICKED ACT FOR
WHICH I WILL PERISH
BY STARVING.

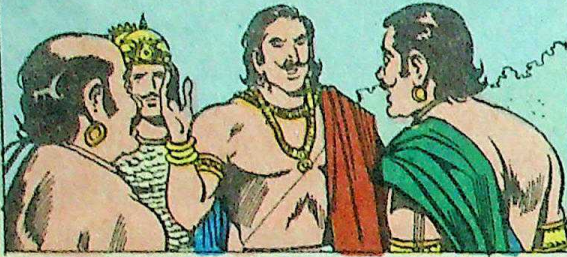


AND IF I RETURN
NOW AFTER BEING
INSULTED BY MY
FOES, I WILL BE A
SOURCE OF SORROW
TO MY FRIENDS.



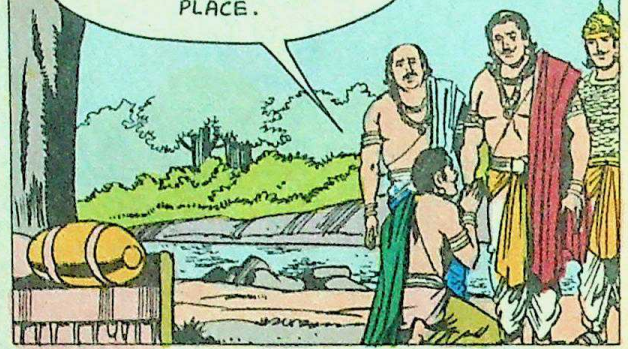
"THEN TURNING TO DUSHSHASANA,
DURYODHANA SAID —

O DUSHSHASANA,
RETURN TO HASTINAPURA
AND RULE IN MY PLACE.
CHERISH YOUR SUPERIORS,
GIVE CHARITY TO BRAHMANAS,
GIVE REFUGE TO FRIENDS
AND DEFEND THE KINGDOM.



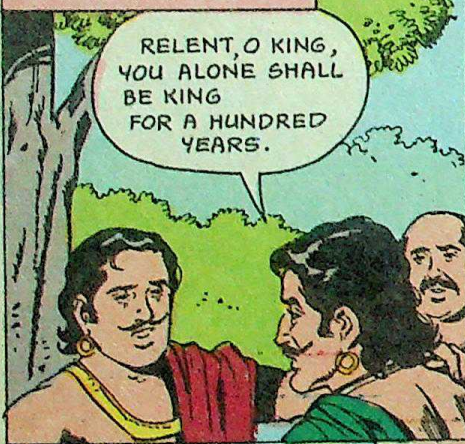
DUSHSHASANA WAS SO MOVED BY GRIEF THAT
HE FELL AT HIS BROTHER'S FEET.

RELENT, O KING,
THIS WILL NEVER BE.
THE EARTH MAY SPLIT,
THE HEAVEN MAY BREAK INTO
PIECES, THE SUN MAY CAST
OFF HIS SPLENDOUR, BUT
I CANNOT RULE IN YOUR
PLACE.



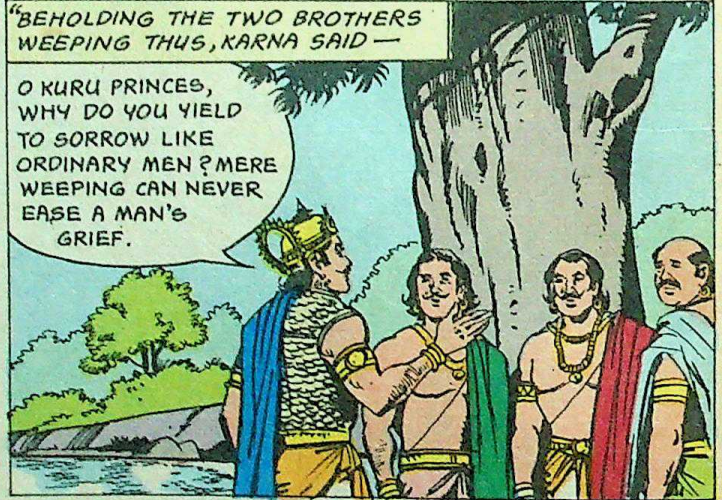
"NOW WEeping INCONSOLABLY
DUSHSHASANA SAID —

RELENT, O KING,
YOU ALONE SHALL
BE KING
FOR A HUNDRED
YEARS.

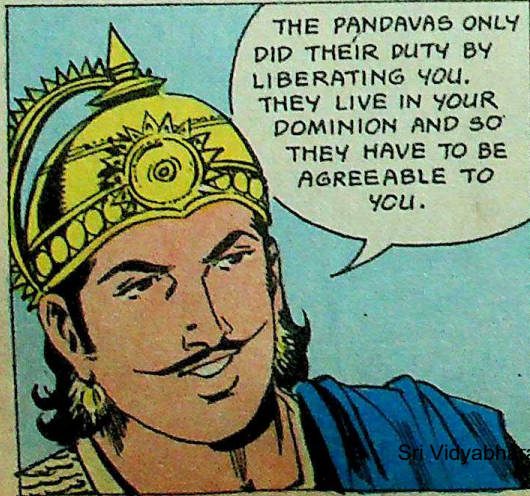


"BEHOLDING THE TWO BROTHERS
WEeping THUS, KARNA SAID —

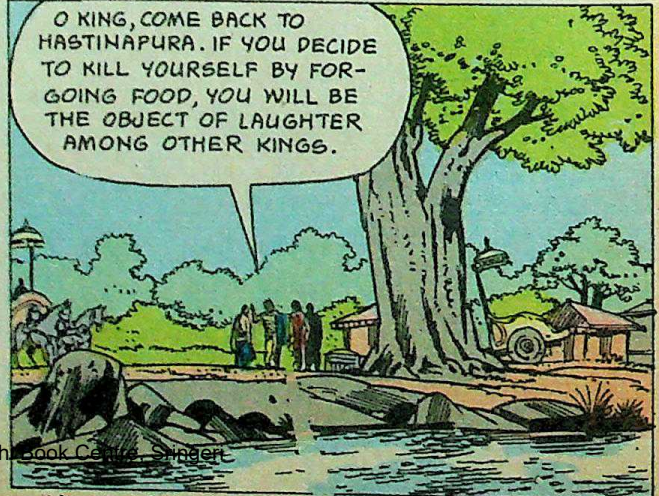
O KURU PRINCES,
WHY DO YOU YIELD
TO SORROW LIKE
ORDINARY MEN? MERE
WEeping CAN NEVER
EASE A MAN'S
GRIEF.



THE PANDAVAS ONLY
DID THEIR DUTY BY
LIBERATING YOU.
THEY LIVE IN YOUR
DOMINION AND SO
THEY HAVE TO BE
AGREEABLE TO
YOU.

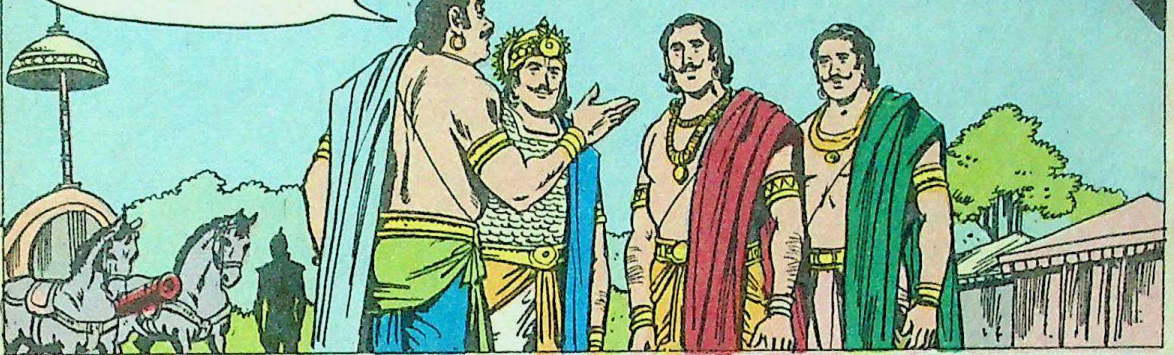


O KING, COME BACK TO
HASTINAPURA. IF YOU DECIDE
TO KILL YOURSELF BY FOR-
GOING FOOD, YOU WILL BE
THE OBJECT OF LAUGHTER
AMONG OTHER KINGS.



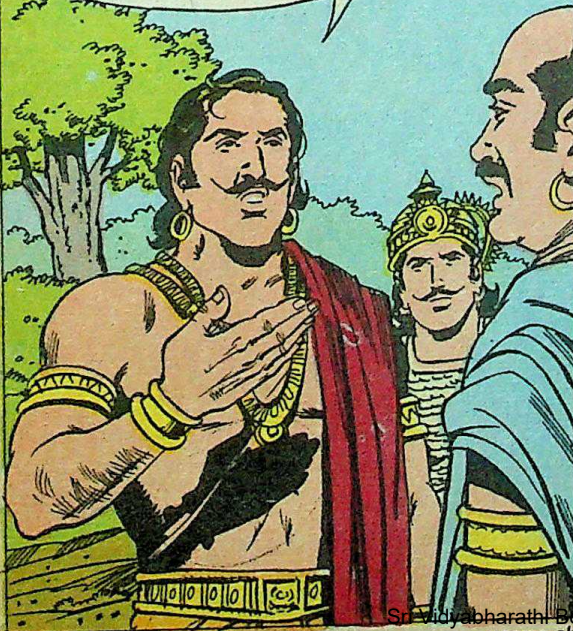
"SHAKUNI CONSOLED DURYODHANA."

KARNA IS RIGHT.
WHY DO YOU WISH TO
FORGO THE WEALTH
I HAVE WON FOR YOU
FROM THE PANDAVAS?

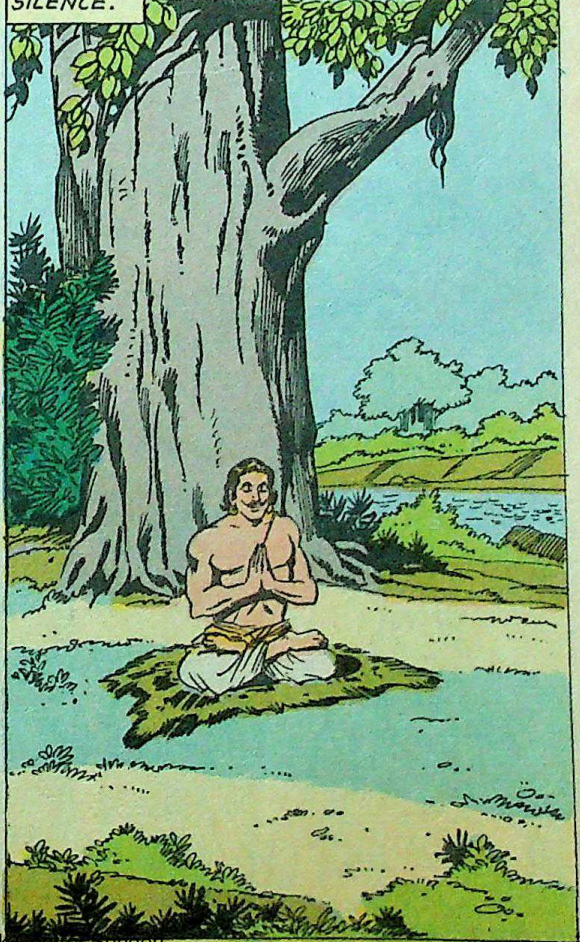


"AFTER HEARING ALL THAT HIS FRIENDS AND
BROTHERS HAD TO SAY, DURYODHANA
ANSWERED WITH SORROW."

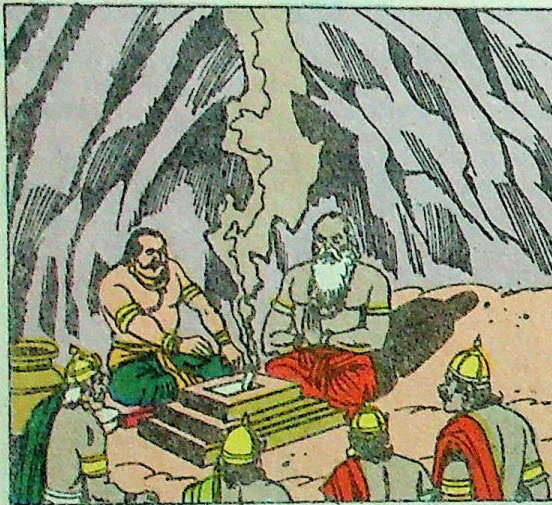
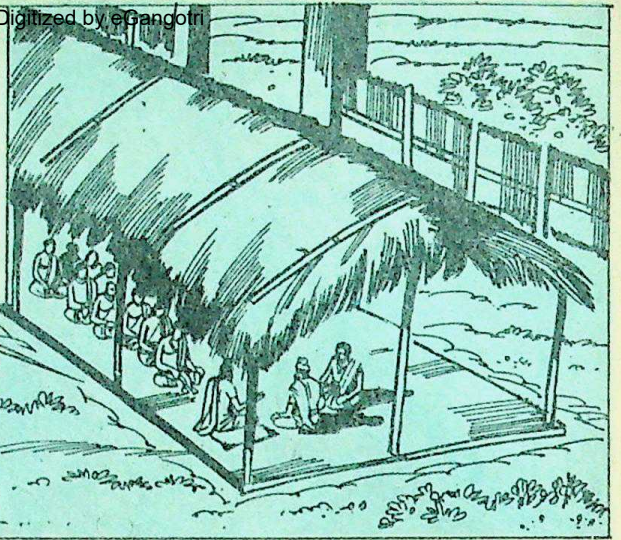
I HAVE NOTHING MORE
TO DO WITH VIRTUE, WEALTH,
FRIENDSHIP, AFFLUENCE,
SOVEREIGNTY AND PLEASURES.
DO NOT COME IN THE WAY OF MY
RESOLVE, BUT LEAVE ME ALONE.
I AM FIRMLY RESOLVED TO CAST
AWAY MY LIFE BY FORGOING FOOD.
RETURN TO THE CITY AND TREAT
MY SUPERIORS THERE RESPECT-
FULLY.



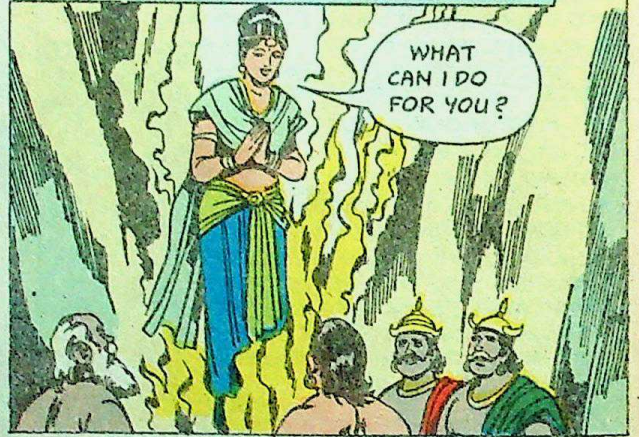
"THEN, CLAD IN RAGS, HE SPREAD KUSHA GRASS
ON THE EARTH AND PREPARED HIMSELF TO
OBSERVE THE HIGHEST VOW OF LAYING DOWN
HIS LIFE. HE PRAYED AND WORSHIPPED IN
SILENCE."



MEANWHILE, O MONARCH, THE FIERCE
DAITYAS AND DANAVAS, DEFEATED
EARLIER BY THE DEVAS AND
DWELLING IN THE NETHER REGIONS,
BECAME AWARE OF DURYODHANA'S
INTENTIONS. KNOWING THAT IF THE
KING DIED, THEIR PARTY WOULD
BE WEAKENED, THEY COMMENCED
A YAJNA TO SUMMON DURYODHANA
TO THEIR PRESENCE.

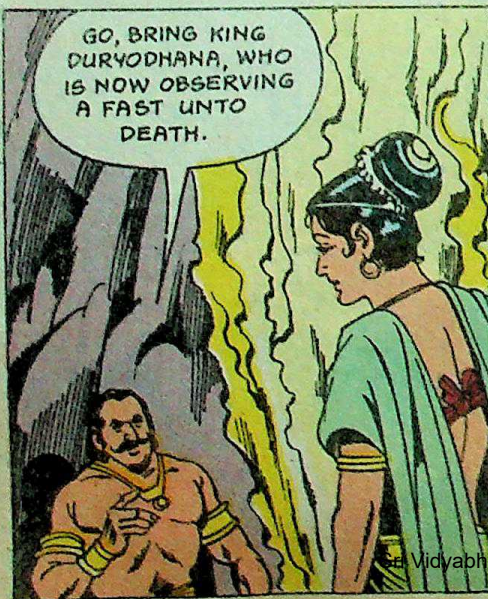


"AFTER THE RITES HAD ENDED, A FEMALE
DEITY AROSE FROM THE FIRE—



WHAT
CAN I DO
FOR YOU?

GO, BRING KING
DURYODHANA, WHO
IS NOW OBSERVING
A FAST UNTO
DEATH.

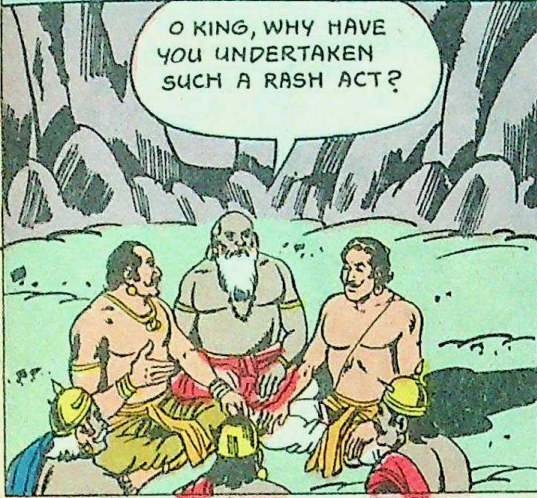


By Vidya bhargava, Delhi. Shree

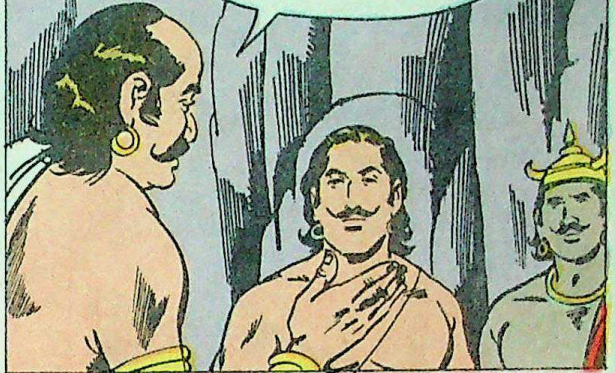
amar chitra katha

"THE DEITY TOOK DURYODHANA TO THE NETHER REGIONS WHERE THE DANAVAS WERE EAGERLY AWAITING HER RETURN.

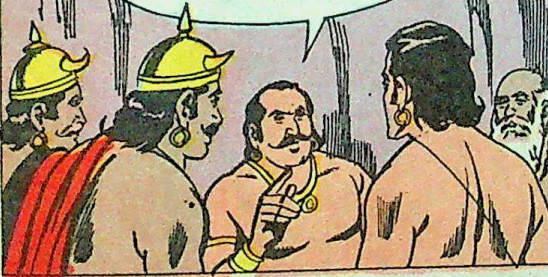
O KING, WHY HAVE YOU UNDERTAKEN SUCH A RASH ACT?



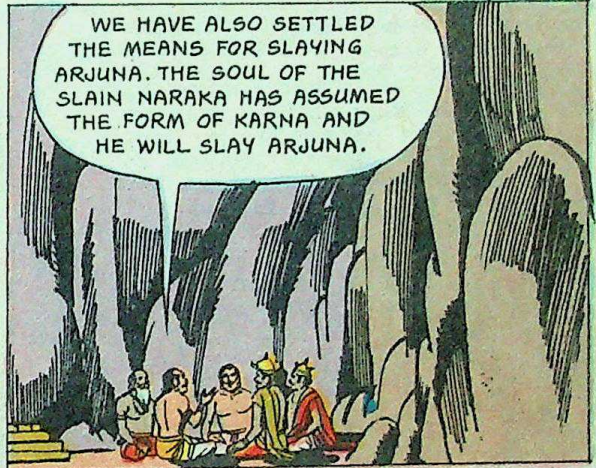
O DURYODHANA, YOU ARE OF CELESTIAL ORIGIN, THE CREATION OF MAHESHWARA AND HIS GODDESS. AND WE HAVE OBTAINED YOU BY ASCETIC AUSTERITIES FROM MAHESHWARA.



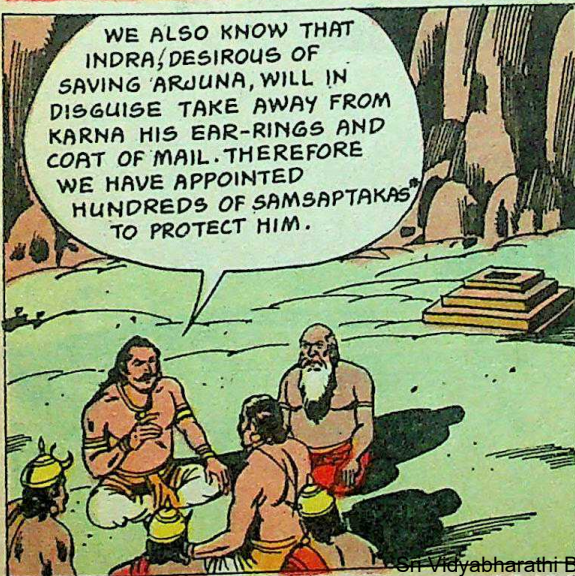
GRIEVE NOT ANY MORE, FOR THERE ARE MANY DANAVAS BORN ON THIS EARTH TO HELP YOU IN DESTROYING YOUR FOES. THE SONS OF PANDU WILL HAVE TO CONTEND WITH THESE MIGHTY DANAVAS.



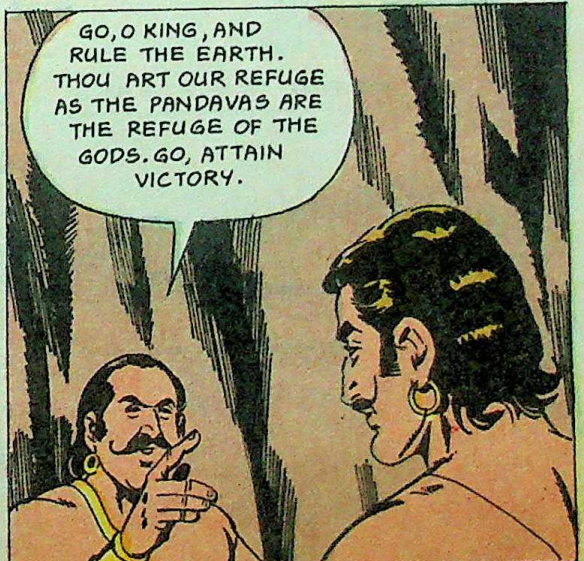
WE HAVE ALSO SETTLED THE MEANS FOR SLAYING ARJUNA. THE SOUL OF THE SLAIN NARAKA HAS ASSUMED THE FORM OF KARNA AND HE WILL SLAY ARJUNA.



WE ALSO KNOW THAT INDRA, DESIROUS OF SAVING ARJUNA, WILL IN DISGUISE TAKE AWAY FROM KARNA HIS EAR-RINGS AND COAT OF MAIL. THEREFORE WE HAVE APPOINTED HUNDREDS OF SAMSAPTAKAS* TO PROTECT HIM.

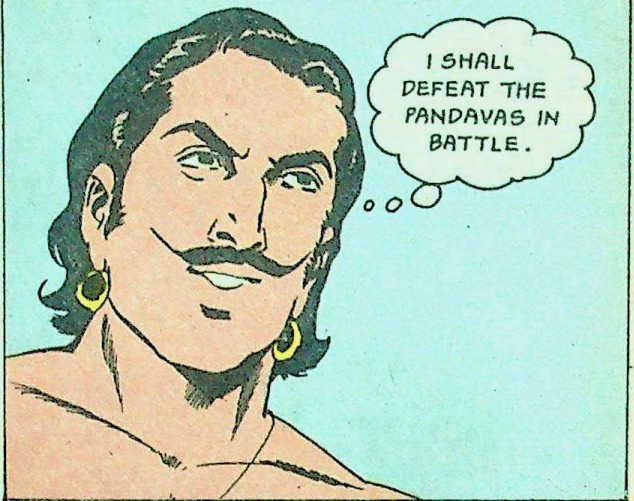
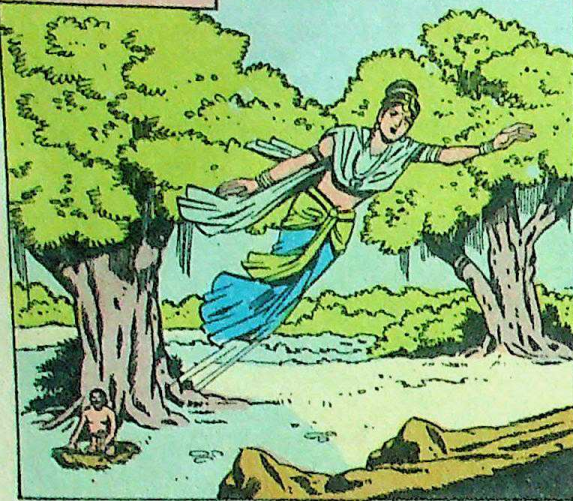


GO, O KING, AND RULE THE EARTH. THOU ART OUR REFUGE AS THE PANDAVAS ARE THE REFUGE OF THE GODS. GO, ATTAIN VICTORY.



* SOLDIERS THAT HAVE SWORN TO CONQUER OR DIE. A FULL ARMY OF THESE SOLDIERS WAS OWNED BY KRISHNA, WHO GAVE THEM TO DURYODHANA TO FIGHT FOR HIM.

"THE DEITY THEN CARRIED DURYODHANA BACK TO THE SPOT WHERE HE HAD BEEN MEDITATING."



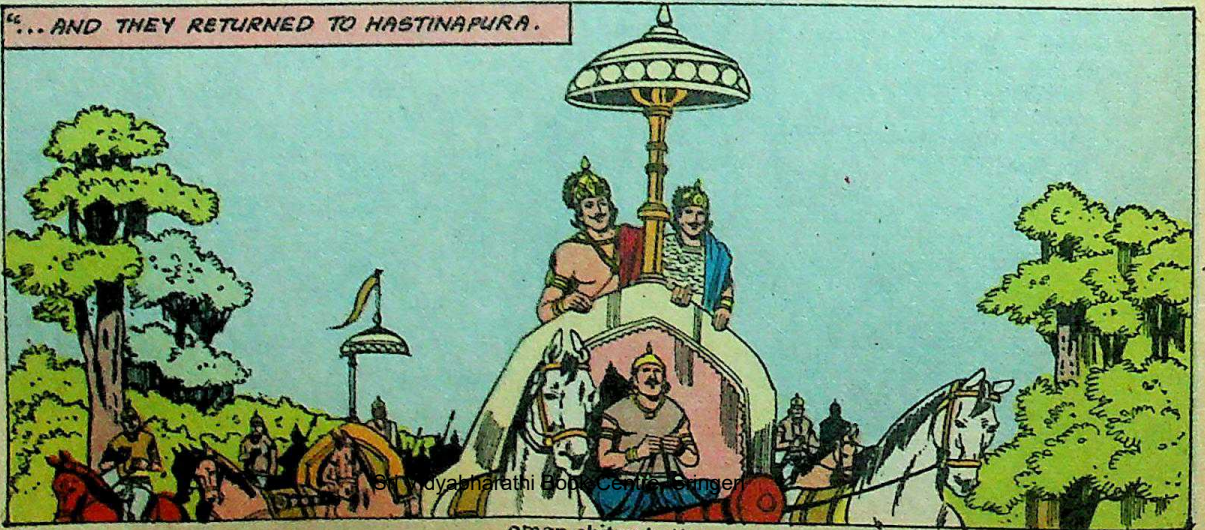
"THE NEXT MORNING KARNA APPROACHED DURYODHANA AGAIN."



"HEARING KARNA'S FIRM RESOLVE AND REMEMBERING THE WORDS OF THE DANAVAS, DURYODHANA ROSE..."

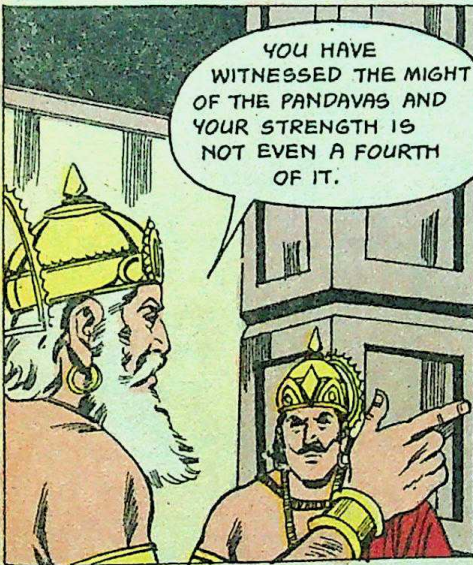


"...AND THEY RETURNED TO HASTINAPURA."



"DURYODHANA RETURNED TO HASTINAPURA. HE MET CRITICISM, NOT PRAISE."

O CHILD, I TOLD YOU BEFORE YOU SET OUT, THAT THE JOURNEY DID NOT PLEASE ME. YET YOU WENT. AND AS A CONSEQUENCE YOU WERE TAKEN CAPTIVE AND HAD TO BE FREED BY THE PANDAVAS. YET YOU ARE NOT ASHAMED.



YOU HAVE WITNESSED THE MIGHT OF THE PANDAVAS AND YOUR STRENGTH IS NOT EVEN A FOURTH OF IT.

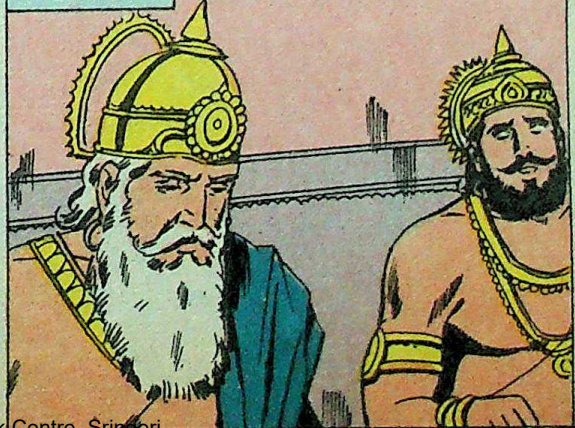


O DURYODHANA, THEREFORE, FOR THE WELFARE OF THE RACE, CONCLUDE PEACE WITH THE VALIANT SONS OF PANDU.

"ON HEARING THIS, DURYODHANA SAILED OUT OF THE ROOM WITH SHAKUNI..."

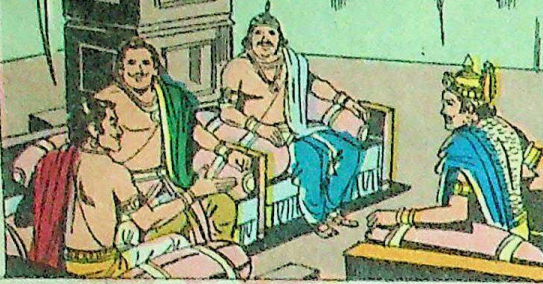


"...LEAVING BHEESHMA WHO HUNG HIS HEAD IN SHAME."

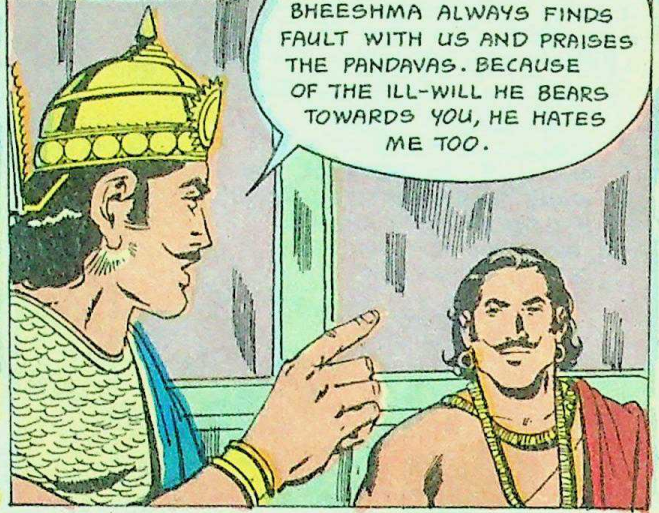


"DURYODHANA THEN DECIDED TO CONVINCE HIS COUNSELLORS."

WE MUST DISCUSS TODAY WHAT REMAINS TO BE DONE AND ALSO WHAT WILL BE BENEFICIAL TO ME.



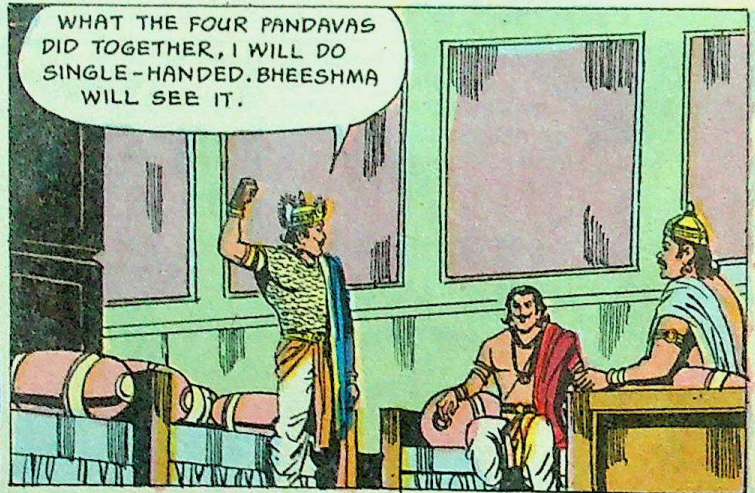
O DURYODHANA, BHEESHMA ALWAYS FINDS FAULT WITH US AND PRAISES THE PANDAVAS. BECAUSE OF THE ILL-WILL HE BEARS TOWARDS YOU, HE HATES ME TOO.



SO, O KING, IF YOU PERMIT ME, I WILL CONQUER THE EARTH SINGLE-HANDED.



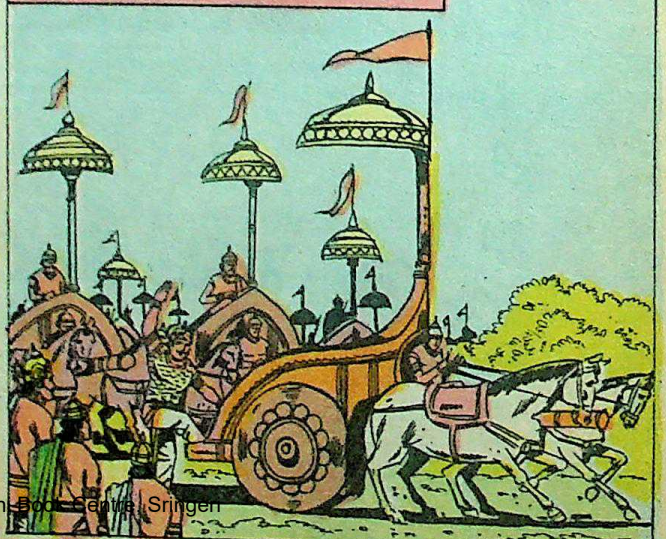
WHAT THE FOUR PANDAVAS DID TOGETHER, I WILL DO SINGLE-HANDED. BHEESHMA WILL SEE IT.



O KARNA, YOUR CONCERN FOR MY WELFARE I REGARD AS A FAVOUR. GO AND SUBDUCE OUR ENEMIES. MY BLESSINGS ARE WITH YOU.



"AND ON AN AUSPICIOUS DAY AND HOUR, KARNA SET OUT TO FULFIL HIS PROMISE."



"WITH A LARGE ARMY AT HIS DISPOSAL, KARNA*SET OUT TO CONQUER THE WORLD. HE
BEGAN BY SUBJUGATING KING DRUPADA, AND THEN CONQUERED ALL THE KINGDOMS
OF THE NORTH, EAST, SOUTH AND WEST.

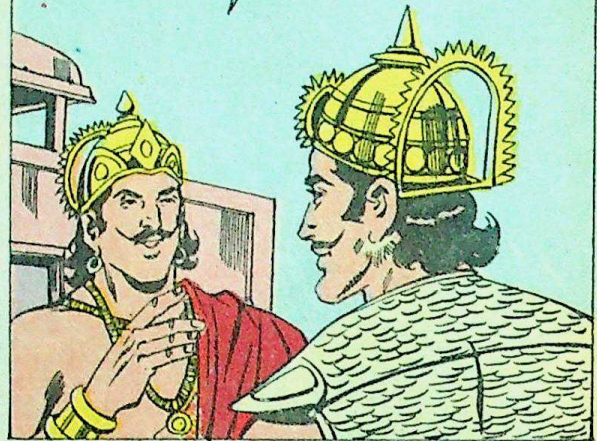


"WHEN A VICTORIOUS KARMA-SATYADITTO HASTINAPURA, HE WAS RECEIVED WITH HONOUR."

O KARNA, WHAT YOU HAVE DONE FOR ME, NOT EVEN DRONA OR KRIPA OR BHEESHMA HAS BEEN ABLE TO DO. WITHOUT DOUBT NEITHER THE PANDAVAS NOR ANY OTHER KING IS ANY MATCH FOR YOU IN VALOUR.



NOW I WISH TO PERFORM THE MIGHTY RAJASOOYA YAJNA WHICH THE PANDAVAS PERFORMED.

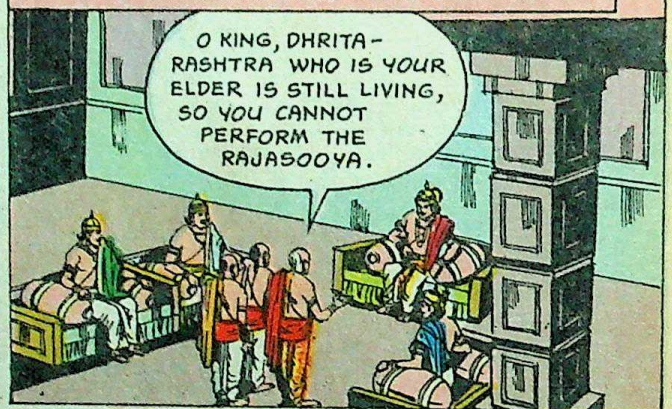


O KING, NOW THAT ALL THE RULERS OF THE EARTH HAVE BEEN BROUGHT UNDER YOUR SUBJECTION, SUMMON THE PRIESTS AND CONDUCT THE SACRIFICE.

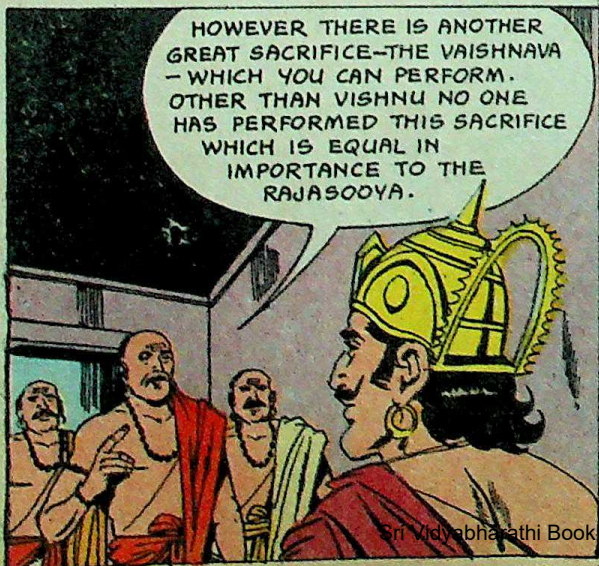


"BUT WHEN THE BRAHMANAS WERE SENT FOR —

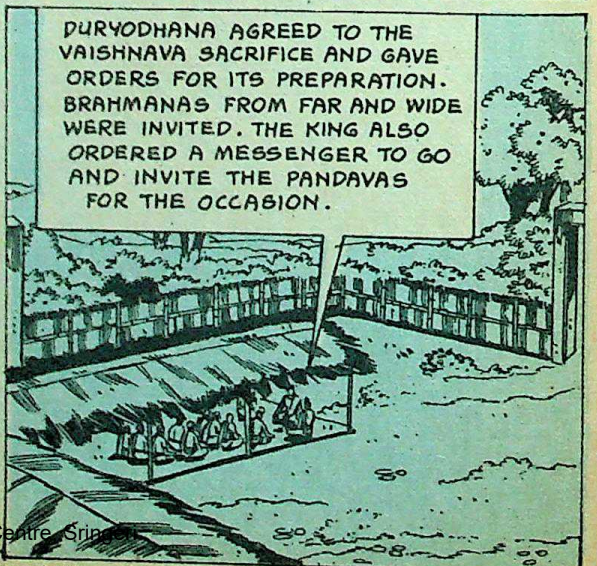
O KING, DHRTA-RASHTRA WHO IS YOUR ELDER IS STILL LIVING, SO YOU CANNOT PERFORM THE RAJASOOYA.



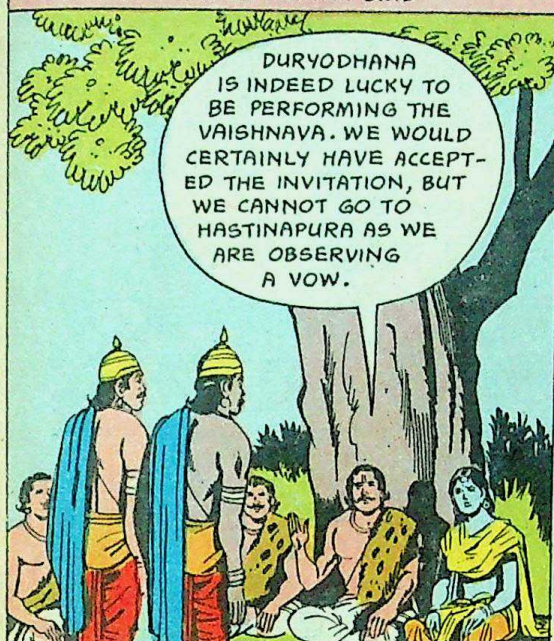
HOWEVER THERE IS ANOTHER GREAT SACRIFICE-THE VAISHNAVA - WHICH YOU CAN PERFORM. OTHER THAN VISHNU NO ONE HAS PERFORMED THIS SACRIFICE WHICH IS EQUAL IN IMPORTANCE TO THE RAJASOOYA.



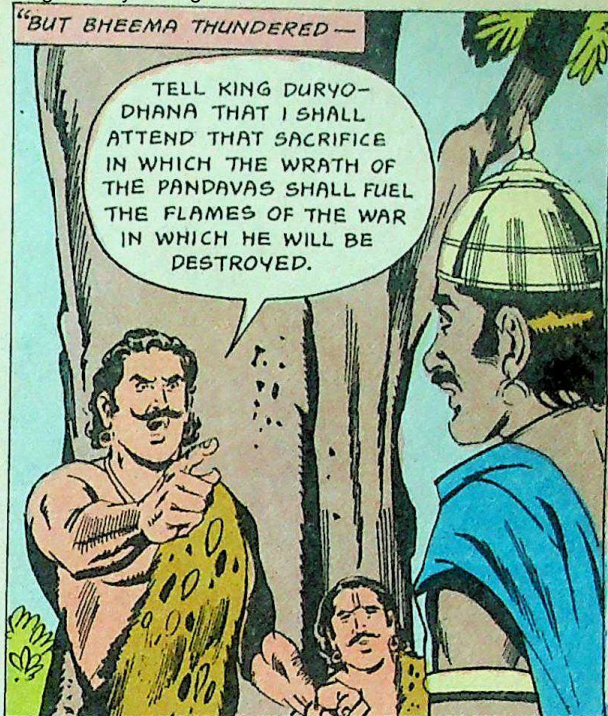
DURYODHANA AGREED TO THE VAISHNAVA SACRIFICE AND GAVE ORDERS FOR ITS PREPARATION. BRAHMANAS FROM FAR AND WIDE WERE INVITED. THE KING ALSO ORDERED A MESSENGER TO GO AND INVITE THE PANDAVAS FOR THE OCCASION.



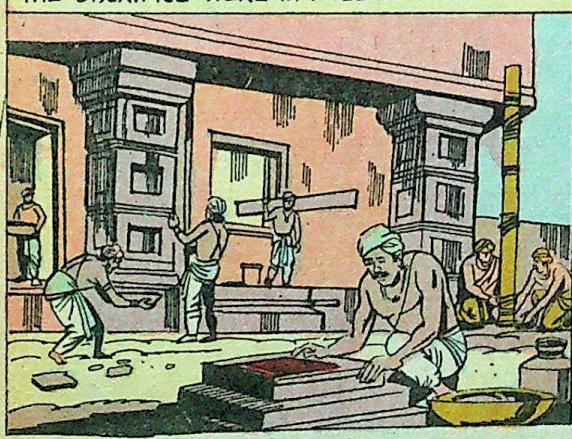
"DURYODHANA'S MESSENGER CONVEYED THE INVITATION TO THE PANDAVAS IN THE FOREST. BUT YUDHISHTHIRA SAID —



"BUT BHEEMA THUNDERED —



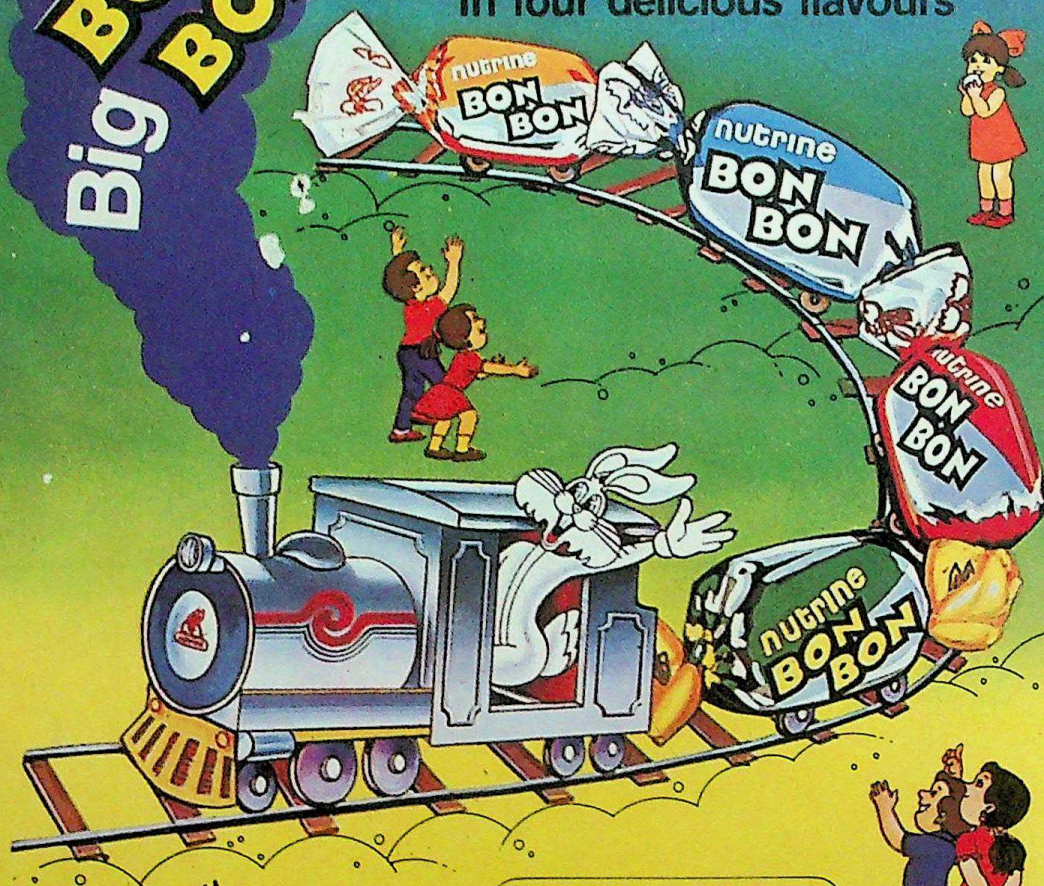
"BACK IN HASTINAPURA PREPARATIONS FOR THE SACRIFICE WERE IN FULL SWING.



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